

Israel jails 4 PLO men

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli military court on Monday sentenced a commander of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) elite Force-17 captured last year off the coast of Lebanon to 14 years in jail and his three aides to two years. The decision was handed down a day after Israel announced it was holding an undisclosed number of Palestinians from the PLO's mainline Fatah group captured last week when a Cypriot boat was intercepted off the Lebanon coast (See story below). The Lod court said Habis Hamad Mahmud Tsarles, 27, was a senior commander of Force-17 who took part in an attempted sea-borne attack on Israel in 1981. An Israeli navy patrol intercepted his boat on March 1985 while it was en route from Cyprus to Lebanon.

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King receives Bahraini minister

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Monday received Bahraini Information Minister Tarq Al Mu'ayyad, who is currently on a visit to Jordan. The King discussed with Mr. Mu'ayyad bilateral relations and the current situation in the region. Information Minister Mohammad Al Khatib and the Bahraini ambassador to Jordan attended the meeting. Mr. Mu'ayyad arrived here earlier Monday on a three-day visit to Jordan at the invitation of Mr. Khatib. During the visit Mr. Mu'ayyad will hold talks with Mr. Khatib and other Jordanian officials on means to bolster Jordanian-Bahraini relations in information-related affairs. The Bahraini minister is accompanied by a four-member delegation representing the information media in Bahrain. They were welcomed at the airport by Mr. Khatib, the Bahraini ambassador to Jordan and other information officials.

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King receives Moroccan message

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received on Monday a message from King Hassan II of Morocco. The message was delivered to the King by King Hassan's counsellor Mohammad Awad, who is currently visiting Jordan.

King contacts Fahd, Assad and Mubarak

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday held phone conversations with Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, which reported the contacts did not give details.

King sends good wishes to Poland

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Monday sent a cable of good wishes to Poland's head of state Wojciech Jaruzelski congratulating him on the occasion of Poland's national day. The King also wished General Jaruzelski continuing good health and happiness and the Polish people further progress and prosperity.

Prince Mohammad visits GHQ

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, paid a visit on Monday to the Armed Forces' General Headquarters (GHQ). He was received at the GHQ by Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker.

House meets Thursday

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akef Al Fayez has decided to call the House to session on Thursday. A Royal Decree issued on Saturday authorised the convening of an extraordinary session of Parliament.

Irbid gearing up for Aug. 14 polls

AMMAN (Petra) — Preparations are under way in Irbid Governorate for the Aug. 14 by-election to fill a vacant seat in the Lower House of Parliament following the passing away of Deputy Yacoub Muammar. The preparations include the formation of electoral and vote counting committees and the allocation of 207 polling centres.

2nd Aqaba power unit switched on

AMMAN (Petra) — The second unit of the Aqaba Thermal Power Station (ATPS) became operational on Monday and was linked to the national grid, according to ATPS Director Ghazi Sabri. Speaking at a ceremony to inaugurate the 260-kilowatt unit, Mr. Sabri said that it was one of the most powerful units owned and operated by JEA.

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King, Giraud discuss Franco-Jordanian cooperation in defence

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein met Monday with French Defence Minister Andre Giraud with whom he was expected to discuss possible Jordanian arms purchases from France and scopes of Jordanian-French defence cooperation.

The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, did not give details about the meeting but said it was attended by Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and Mr. Patrick Leclercq, the French ambassador to Amman. The ambassador told the Jordan Times on Sunday that France would seriously consider any Jordanian request for arms and that the issue would be raised in the defence minister's talks with the King.

Modai resigns to avert further crisis in shaky Israeli coalition

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Justice Minister Yitzhak Modai resigned on Monday after losing Prime Minister Shimon Peres at the weekend. His move averted a serious crisis in the shaky "national unity" government.

Cabinet Secretary Yossi Beilin told reporters Mr. Modai had resigned to Mr. Peres at a brief emergency cabinet meeting. There was no discussion and members of the right-wing Likud bloc made no move to block his departure.

Political sources told Reuters the outspoken justice minister might return to the cabinet after Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, the Likud leader, takes over the premiership from Mr. Peres in October under a power-sharing coalition agreement.

In a speech last Saturday, Mr. Modai accused Mr. Peres of knowing as little about justice as he knew about economics. It was the latest in a series of barbs which had already led to Mr. Modai's removal from the finance ministry in April.

Agents confirm Cypriot vessel seized by Israel

NICOSIA (AP) — The Cyprus-registered coaster Anton was missing for four days last week when it was seized by the Israeli navy off the Lebanese coast allegedly with several Palestinian commandos aboard, the vessel's agents reported Monday.

Andreas Thoupis, manager of the Silver Cross Shipping Co. that operates the 700-tonne cargo ship, said all contact with the vessel was lost July 14 before it was intercepted by the Israelis. "We heard July 18 it had been seized and only heard yesterday that it had been taken to Haifa," he told the Associated Press by telephone.

Andreotti abandons effort to form new government

ROME (R) — Prime Minister-designate Giulio Andreotti on Monday gave up his efforts to form a government and President Francesco Cossiga summoned outgoing Premier Bettino Craxi, apparently to offer him a mandate.

The Quirinal Presidential Palace said Mr. Craxi had been called to see Mr. Cossiga late Monday. Political sources said this meant Mr. Craxi, whose resignation on June 27 caused the crisis, would be asked to try to form a new administration.

Mr. Andreotti admitted defeat despite intense efforts to form a government and Italy's political crisis appeared as far from a solution as when it began 24 days ago. He returned to the Quirinal 11 days after receiving his mandate to tell Mr. Cossiga that he could not form an administration.

Jordanian officials were not available for comment on the King's talks with Mr. Giraud. French embassy officials also could not be immediately reached.

According to Petra, the King discussed with Mr. Giraud "bilateral relations between France and Jordan and ways to develop these relations." It did not elaborate.

The French defence minister was also received by Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Zaid Rifa'i. Mr. Leclercq attended the meeting.

Gen. Sharif Zaid also held talks with Mr. Giraud. Jordan is mainly interested in fighter-bombers, surface-to-air missiles and anti-aircraft mobile batteries.

The King visited Paris last month during which he held talks with French leaders which reportedly included the issue of arms sales.

Mr. Shamir had told him he could return to the government after rotation. He said: "I have no promise. I would think he would want to do this... the decision is up to the next prime minister." (See page 2).

Mr. Modai, 60, has long been reputed for his sharp tongue. In April, he was forced out of the finance ministry after saying Mr. Peres understood nothing about economics.

At the time, Likud ministers rallied around Mr. Modai and in a prolonged wrangle prevented Mr. Peres from dismissing him. Instead he agreed to swap posts with then-Justice Minister Moshe Nissim.

Mr. Modai's resignation should save his Likud colleagues from having to come to his rescue again at the risk of bringing down the government before their leader takes power.

In his defence, Mr. Modai said several ministers from Mr. Peres' Labour Party had attacked Mr. Shamir with impunity in recent weeks over the Shin Bet security service scandal.

Reagan may reject Soviet call for ban on SDI

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan is considering rejecting a Soviet proposal for an indefinite ban on the deployment of the U.S. "Star Wars" defence system, a government official said Monday.

Mr. Reagan also intends to reaffirm his determination to go ahead with research on the programme, but is considering limiting deployment of the "Star Wars" system, said the official, who demanded anonymity.

The official said Mr. Reagan also would push for more than 50 per cent reductions in U.S. and Soviet strategic nuclear weapons.

Mr. Reagan is faced with a split within his administration over "Star Wars," officially known as the strategic defence initiative (SDI). The Pentagon opposes any promise on deployment, contending it is likely to discourage the U.S. Congress from financing the embattled programme, the official said.

Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev has proposed a 15- to 20-year delay in "Star Wars" deployment. Mr. Reagan is considering a more limited restraint of five to six years and has sent three top emissaries to consult with friendly governments before weighing his options.

"The essential difference is whether or not there is some partial step in the area of SDI," the official said.



His Majesty King Hussein on Monday holds talks with French Defence Minister Andre Giraud (Petra photo).

Khatib reaffirms Jordan's commitment to protect occupied lands' Arab identity

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Mohammad Al Khatib has reaffirmed Jordan's commitment towards preserving the Arab identity of the Israeli occupied territories and consolidating the people's ties to their land by enabling them to face Israel's settlement policy.

"The Israelis' drive to evict the (Palestinian) people from their land and to replace them with Jewish settlers is rising at a dramatic speed," Mr. Khatib said. "Jordan finds no other alternative but to strengthen the Arab identity of the land and the people and to provide means to strengthen the people's steadfastness in order to liberate and regain the occupied lands," Mr. Khatib was quoted as saying in an interview published in this week's Lebanese magazine Al Usbu' Al Arabi.

Referring to the collapse of joint political coordination between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Mr. Khatib said: "Are we supposed to stop our efforts which aim at maintaining the West Bank to face the Israeli threat. Why should it be interpreted to mean that we want to contain the West Bank and the Gaza Strip?" Mr. Khatib said in reply to a question.

"The stories that Jordan is competing with the PLO to control the occupied territories is groundless," Mr. Khatib said.

Mr. Khatib said the recent government step to close down 25 offices belonging to Fatah followed actions by Fatah, which launched an unfair campaign against Jordan.

Jordan made it clear that employees working at Fatah offices were allowed to stay in Jordan like any other Jordanian citizen provided they act in accordance with Jordan's higher policies for national security," said Mr. Khatib. "Like any other country, Jordan believes in national security as a major and strategic axis. We have stopped all Fatah's activities and asked deputy commander of the PLO Khalil Al Wazir to leave Jordan," Mr. Khatib said.

"Jordan wants to help the West Bank to face the Israeli threat. Why should it be interpreted to mean that we want to contain the West Bank and the Gaza Strip?" Mr. Khatib said in reply to a question.

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Gorbachev and Genscher review East-West relations

MOSCOW (R) — West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher continued a flurry of East-West contacts on arms and security issues on Monday by meeting Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

Mr. Gorbachev had expressed a desire for an improved East-West climate but had repeated known Soviet positions on questions such as medium-range missiles in Europe and the U.S. "Star Wars" space defence programme.

Mr. Genscher said his talks with Mr. Gorbachev had lasted about three hours, longer than scheduled. He was due later to have a second round of talks with Mr. Shevardnadze.

Official West German sources said Mr. Gorbachev seemed ready to talk with Mr. Genscher beyond the allotted time because he had met last month with the opposition Social Democrats' candidate for chancellor, Johannes Rau, for more than two hours.

Mr. Genscher said he had defended the emplacement of NATO medium-range missiles in West Germany, an issue which sent Soviet-West German relations into a chill in late 1983 when Chancellor Helmut Kohl's administration approved deployment.

The foreign minister was briefed on Sunday before he left for Moscow by the special U.S. envoy for arms control negotiations in Geneva, Paul Nitze, and last week met French President Francois Mitterrand.

The contacts assumed wider importance because Mr. Mitterrand had just returned from Moscow and because the United States and the Soviet Union last week agreed to open talks on the SALT-II strategic arms accord and a nuclear test ban treaty.

Further EC measures against South Africa as "likely to be necessary" if his mission failed to promote peaceful change.

The majority of EC states hoped sanctions would be agreed if Mr. Howe returns empty-handed from his South African mission, which includes meetings with President P.W. Botha on Wednesday and again on July 29, diplomats said.

The EC meanwhile issued a major declaration on human rights on Monday as a cornerstone of European cooperation but also a rebuttal of charges from South Africa of community meddling in its affairs.

In a clear rejection of Pretoria's accusations, the community said expressions of concern at violations of such rights could not be considered as interference in the domestic affairs of a state.

Diplomats said the long-awaited human rights statement, approved by foreign ministers of the 12-nation grouping in Brussels, was the community equivalent of the United Nations Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

Mr. Howe said he would regard

TCC to increase number of free calls to 2,000

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) has decided to increase the number of free local calls for subscribers from 1,000 calls per annum to 2,000, calls, according to Minister of Communication and TCC Chairman Mubiedine Al Hussein.

Mr. Hussein, in an interview with the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i, said on Monday that the TCC decision was taken during a meeting of the TCC board on Sunday.

The decision, which had been called for by Prime Minister Zaid Rifa'i, would go into effect after it is endorsed by the Cabinet, Mr. Hussein said.

He added that the TCC has formed a committee to conduct an assessment study with a view to reducing costs of international calls. The study, the minister said, was being conducted to improve on the current bill-collecting methods.

The study aims also at granting 50 per cent reduction on international calls that are made during certain hours at night, morning and during holidays.

Such a move would encourage subscribers to make their international calls at hours other than peak hours when lines are too busy, the minister said.

He added that the study, which is expected to be completed within the next few weeks, will also cover a proposal to grant certain reductions for subscribers whose monthly bills do not exceed certain amounts. The new tariff is expected to be valid with effect from beginning of 1987.

Guerrillas attack Spanish Defence Ministry building

MADRID (Agencies) — Suspected Basque guerrillas on Monday launched a grenade and car bomb attack against the Defence Ministry, injuring at least nine people, police said.

Missiles were fired at the ministry from grenade launchers positioned in front of the building, followed minutes later by a powerful car bomb blast in adjacent streets.

Eyewitnesses quoted by Reuters said a second car bomb went off shortly after but caused no injuries because police had evacuated the area.

Eight rockets were fired at the Defence Ministry, two others hit parked cars, one rebounded off a wall, striking a bus and the 12th did not explode, government spokesman Manuel Moles said.

One of the injured was Vice-Admiral Carlos Vila Miranda, deputy director of personnel in the Ministry of Defence who was hit by flying debris when a rocket struck his office, Moles said.

Moles said the rockets had been mounted on a rack on the roof of a car and were also fired by remote control across the Paseo de la Castellana, Madrid's main north-south artery.

Although no group claimed responsibility for the attack, police said it bore all the earmarks of ETA, the Basque separatist organisation.

The attack follows France's explosion of a suspected member of ETA to Spain on Saturday. The ETA is the Basque separatist organisation that claimed responsibility for last week's car bombing in Madrid that killed 10 young paramilitary Civil Guards.

Socialist Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez is scheduled to deliver his investiture speech to parliament on Tuesday following the general election on June 22 which returned him to office with a renewed absolute majority.

Tutu asks Botha to lift state of emergency

PRETORIA (Agencies) — Black Anglican Bishop Desmond Tutu said he asked President P.W. Botha on Monday to end the national state of emergency, withdraw troops from black townships, free detainees and lift bans on political organisations.

Bishop Tutu described the meeting as "very friendly," but gave no indication that Mr. Botha had changed his stance on any of the major issues.

The state president did not agree with me that the situation is deteriorating," Bishop Tutu told reporters after his nearly two-hour talk with Mr. Botha in the president's office.

"It was a very friendly exchange, frank," Bishop Tutu said. "We didn't mince words. My own position with regard to sanctions also came into view."

Under the state of emergency, it is against the law to call for economic sanctions against South Africa, as several countries have threatened to do unless the apartheid system is changed.

It was the second meeting between the two men in six weeks.

Hamzeh calls on all health officials to utilise the media more effectively

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh Monday called for bridging the gap between information officials in the health sector and the media in the Arab World as an important step towards achieving "health for all by the year 2000," the aim of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

"I have to say that the relationship between health information officials and media institutions in the region is almost nonexistent," Dr. Hamzeh said, addressing a regional conference on media and public relations officials in health ministries and other health institutions.

He said that the Arab World was facing "a great challenge" in the health sector. He told the opening session of the four-day workshop that money, or the lack of it, was not behind the failure in the health information sector but "the problem is that there is a failure to use existing institutions and facilities as well as minds."

In his speech, the minister

stressed that "it is not necessary that the top official (in the ministry) be the sole operator of the media machine." He was apparently referring to incidents when officials at the ministry declined to reveal information or comment on a development without the prior approval or instructions of the minister himself.

Addressing directors of information sections in Arab health ministries, Dr. Hamzeh said: "On your shoulders lay great responsibilities."

The workshop aims to boost and enhance the role of health-related media executives in raising the level of people's awareness about health issues.

WHO representative, Dr. Habiha Wassef, delivered a speech on behalf of Dr. Hussein Jasari, WHO regional director for the East Mediterranean region, in which she said that WHO and world governments are persistently striving towards achieving a level of health which would allow a socially and economically productive life.

She said that achieving health

for all by the year 2000 depended to a large extent on decisions taken by those in charge of the economy and most social and health sectors.

Dr. Wassef added that an assessment of strategies undertaken to achieve health for all have indicated that there were weak points in national health programmes. One of these indications is the reduced level of society's participation in vaccination programmes and a decline in the level of health services. She stressed the need for a collective effort by all government institutions, in coordination with the media, to achieve the declared aim of health for all.

Participating in the workshop are information and public relations officials from countries which are members of the East Mediterranean region including the Yemen Democratic Republic, Afghanistan, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Pakistan, Oman, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and the Yemen Arab Republic.

Health Ministry takes steps to ensure that Jordan remains free of cholera

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is completely free of cholera and has been since 1981 as a result of regular tests carried out by health officials on drinking water and spot checks conducted at wastewater treatment plants around the Kingdom, Dr. Saleman Qub'ain, director of the Health Ministry's health care department, said Monday.

He told the Jordan Times that Jordan does not require people arriving from other countries to produce certificates to show that they are free of cholera but he went on to say the ministry is intensifying inspection and monitoring operations on all water resources and at wastewater treatment plants to prevent the epidemic from starting or spreading to any part of the

Kingdom. Health Ministry teams regularly monitor water springs and test wastewater or sewerage arriving at the Khibet Al Smara treatment plant and among the samples tested are those from hospitals to ensure that the sewerage and wastewater contains no cholera, Dr. Qub'ain explained.

The Health Ministry, in cooperation with other government departments and the Water Authority of Jordan, has been monitoring crops and has also been testing stools of suspected cases at laboratories to ensure that there is no cholera.

The introduction of measures in Jordan follow the incidence of cholera cases among Muslim pilgrims arriving in Saudi Arabia and Jordan's measures include:

— Ensuring that there is sufficient chlorine in water pumped for

domestic use; — Prohibiting the entry of unboiled water or fresh food such as dates, fish and dairy products from Saudi Arabia or any country where there has been an outbreak of cholera;

— Intensifying monitoring and control measures on all food shops and restaurants and their staff;

— Prohibiting the sale of food by street vendors;

— Making sure that all unwholesome areas are treated promptly and that regular cleanliness campaigns are conducted;

— Increasing control and monitoring on all water resources and trucks which carry drinking water;

— Prohibiting swimming or washing of clothes or bottles and pots in reservoirs, canals and other open areas of water;

— Maintaining strict control on public swimming pools.

Palestine Hospital to house neurological centre

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — A neurological centre is currently under construction at the Palestine Hospital in Amman and it is expected to be completed by the middle of next year, Dr. Nasri Khoury, a neurologist, told a group of reporters Monday. The centre, which is sponsored by the society for the care of neurological patients, will not only serve these patients, but will also serve as a training institute for resident doctors, nurses, physiotherapists and technicians.

Three members of the international board of the society — Mr. Terry Waite, an active campaigner for world peace, Mr. Peter Escott, an economic consultant, and Mr. Eugene Douglas, U.S. ambassador at large, will arrive in Amman on Wednesday for a several-day visit during which they will meet with

persons involved in this project and to see how they can support the new centre. At the end of their visit, they will hold a press conference.

Dr. Khoury graduated from the University of Toronto in Canada and lectured there for one year. He has been cooperating with the neurology department at Toronto because he said it is interested in assisting developing countries in this field. "We plan a five-year programme with them under which we will exchange expertise in the field. But we will not send them any trainees from here until they have two years of training in this centre," he said. He added that a similar cooperation programme was agreed with Johns Hopkins University in the United States.

Charity fund for patients

The society for the care of neurological patients, whose

honorary chairman is His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, will manage a charity fund for patients who need financial support. The sources of this fund, according to Dr. Khoury, are in the form of donations and are handled by financial experts whose task is to ensure that the funds are safely invested to guarantee returns. He went on to say that the profits from the investments and not the fund's capital will finance treatment for the centre's patients.

The doctor went on to say that this projected fund requires a capital of nearly JD 2 million in the initial stage so that the fund's profits would be sufficient to cover the cost of treating nearly five hundred neurological patients annually. Dr. Khoury also added that in order to bring this charitable project into being, the international board was formed to handle and organise donations from other countries.

Haj Hassan lauds expatriates' initiative on holding companies

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan Monday praised Jordanian expatriates for taking the necessary steps to set up two holding companies in Jordan with a paid up capital of JD 25 million and JD 10 million respectively.

According to Mr. Haj Hassan, Jordanian expatriates are supervising the raising of funds needed to establish the two companies and have started taking preliminary procedures to pave the way for its official registration in line with the law on companies.

The two companies will be financed through selling shares to Jordanian expatriates and revenues will be used to finance part of the projects included in the national 1986-1990 development plan. The projected JD 3.15 billion plan expects that the private sector will shoulder 47.57 per cent of its total cost. In previous years, the private sector's participation did not exceed 20 per cent of the plan's total cost.

The Jordan Times has learned that there have been intense behind the scene consultations between the Ministry of Trade and Industry and a number of Jordanian expatriates who are also expected to be major financiers of the two holding companies. According to the available information, both the ministry and the concerned expatriates are trying to reach a compromise over how to establish the companies and when their

financing should start.

A senior official at the ministry told the Jordan Times that the government would prefer if the Jordanian expatriates who are involved in the two projects gather the capital now and later appoint a working team to look around for investment opportunities and eventually finance projects. The Jordanian expatriates on the other hand hold an opposing view to the ministry. A renowned Jordanian expatriate taking part in financing the JD 25 million company told the Jordan Times that concerned shareholders believe that a working team has to be set up to study investment possibilities before funds are raised.

Settling differences

This split of opinion between the two sides could hamper the two projects, but the ministry official seems to be certain that a compromise will be reached during this week.

In the meantime, the Jordanian expatriates and the government officials are attempting to settle the differences through dialogue and meetings with Minister of Trade Rajai Al Muasher and his under secretary Mohammad Al Saggaf.

In another related incident, a large number of Jordanian businessmen living abroad, who attended the recent conference, criticised the government for failing to organise specialised centres for investment studies and counselling. "These services should have

been set up before our second meeting," said a Jordanian expatriate on condition of anonymity. He asked why these plans were not implemented before the second conference, especially since the government has just launched its five-year development plan and is looking for every possibility to attract investment into health, agriculture, transport, industry, trade and construction.

Consultancy office

It was only last Thursday that Dr. Muasher announced his ministry's plans to open an office to encourage investment and to facilitate the issue of licences for industrial businesses. The office is expected to be operational by Aug. 1.

According to a local consultant: "There are numerous chances for investment in Jordan if proper institutions are ready to guide the investors in terms of consultancy, testing the local market and drawing up feasibility studies."

The government is doing its utmost to encourage investment in Jordan and the Jordanian expatriates themselves are willing to cooperate provided "concrete information on investment opportunities is available," according to another Jordanian expatriate currently involved in the discussions with the ministry over the fate of the two holding companies.

On Monday, Mr. Haj Hassan and a national higher committee for the expatriates' conference

Ministry issues annual report on social development

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Labour and Social Development Monday issued its annual report on the activities and achievements of its various departments during 1985.

According to the report, the Department of Planning prepared the 1986-1990 five-year plan and signed an agreement with the U.S. chapter of Save the Children Fund to open a branch of the fund in Jordan and to carry out projects which would benefit local communities. The Planning Department also signed an agreement with the Swedish Organisation for the Welfare of Children and with the Queen Noor Foundation for setting up a centre to cater for children's social and health care. The department also participated in a number of regional and international conferences and symposiums, the report continued.

The Department for Developing Local Communities last year supervised the activities of four voluntary centres and 378 charitable societies in the Kingdom. This department gave JD 75,000 to these centres and societies of which JD 58,000 was allocated to 143 societies in the Amman region.

The Department of Social Defence handled matters connected with juvenile delinquency, beggars and homeless people and was also involved in care given to prisoners and their families. This department also provided help to old people and took measure to help them the spread of crime among youth, the report continued.

The efforts to prevent youngsters from turning to crime were conducted in cooperation with the Public Security Department and other government agencies and through visits to families to give advice, the report said. The department is also placing an emphasis on helping to provide vocational training to youths in reform centres in order to help them adapt to the needs and norms of their society.

The report said that the number of juvenile delinquents in Jordan last year rose to 3,758 and that 467 beggars were picked up from the streets, of whom 14 proved to be non-Jordanians and 69 were found to be professional beggars. The remainder had resorted to begging as a result of bad social conditions or poverty, the report said.

The department in charge of children and families distributed JD 724,000 to 6,466 needy families and helped others to get free medical treatment at hospitals, the report said.

The Department of Social Education continued to offer services for the rehabilitation of handicapped persons and the report said that this work is being carried out in cooperation with the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund and the Mu'ta Special Education Society.

The department started work on building a centre at Jerash for the severely handicapped persons. This centre, which is expected to cost JD 680,000, will provide care for 40 persons.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Former minister Duhini passes away

AMMAN (J.T.) — Former Minister of Health and Social Development Yusef Duhini died in Amman on Monday. A dentist by profession, Dr. Duhini once held the post of president of the Jordanian Dentists' Association.

Jordan to attend conference on refugees

DAMASCUS (Petra) — Jordan will take part in a conference for Arab states hosting Palestinian refugees which is due to open in Damascus on Saturday. The week-long conference will tackle developments in the Palestine issue and these countries will submit recommendations to the Arab League on matters related to refugee problems. Delegations from Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine as well as the Arab League will be present at the meetings.

Qatanani receives British envoy to U.N.

AMMAN (Petra) — Under Secretary of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs Ahmad Qatanani Monday met with Mr. John Birch who has recently been appointed as Britain's deputy permanent envoy to the United Nations. Dr. Qatanani explained the existing fields of cooperation between the Jordanian government and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA). He also reaffirmed that Jordan's commitment to support UNRWA aims to meet the needs of refugees living in the East Bank.

Post offices to handle university forms

AMMAN (Petra) — Post offices throughout the country as of next Monday will start receiving applications for study at Jordan's three universities: the University of Jordan in Amman, Yarmouk University in Irbid and Mu'ta University in Karak. Ministry of Communications Under Secretary Mansour Ibn Tarif said that these arrangements have been made in cooperation with the three universities and that this experiment, which started several years ago, has been completely successful. The system will run from Monday July 28 until Wednesday Aug. 6.

Arab unions to convene today

AMMAN (Petra) — The 14th annual meeting of specialised Arab unions opens here today to discuss Arab and international economic situations. The meeting is being held in cooperation between the general secretariates of the Arab League and the Council of Arab Economic Unity and a number of Arab organisations. Participants in the two-day meeting will also discuss reports on the achievements of Arab unions and the problems and obstacles facing them.

AFM director returns from Paris

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Financial Market (AFM) Director General Hashem Al Sabbagh returned to Amman Sunday after heading the Jordanian delegation to the 11th annual international conference on organising financial markets, held in Paris on July 15. The five-day conference discussed several topics on financial markets in advanced and developing countries, control procedures and financial activities as well as the latest developments in financial markets. Dr. Sabbagh presented a working paper to the conference on the AFM's development and the investment incentives in Jordan.

JVFA requests government aid to cover budget deficit

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordan Valley Farmers' Association (JVFA) has called on the government to directly intervene in order to help offset the JVFA's accumulated deficit and to straighten out its financial status.

The association's call, which was sent to the Prime Ministry in the form of a petition, is one of many resolutions recommended by an assessment study, conducted recently to shed light on the association's activities, shortcomings and to find ways and means to cover the association's longstanding deficit, according to JVFA Chairman of the Board of Directors Adel Shamaleh.

Mr. Shamaleh said that the committee conducting the study requested the government to grant the association JD 2,000,000 in soft loans with easy terms in order to inject new funds to cover transactions concerning farm inputs such as fodder, fertilisers, pesticides and equipment.

Another recommendation in the study requested the government to cover the estimated JD153,000 deficit for the fiscal year 1986 a step which would push forward the association's activities and transactions, Mr. Shamaleh told a press conference on Monday.

He also said that if the government covered the JVFA's overdue loan repayments to the agricultural credit corporation (ACC), this would also greatly help the association and that this

could be done by considering the funds as a loan from the treasury to be repaid over eight years, starting 1986, with a three-year grace period.

According to statistics, the association's accumulated debt and overdue repayments amount to approximately JD 1,500,000 and seasonal loans granted by the association to farmers in the Jordan Valley total about JD 2,700,000. These repayments, according to the JVFA chairman, are difficult to collect as most farmers in the valley have suffered losses, mainly because of marketing glut.

Mr. Shamaleh said that the current deficit in the budget is largely due to unpaid services to farmers in the form of spraying campaigns and agricultural extension services.

Another suggestion put forward by the study was for the government to reschedule the association's overdue loan of JD 576,000 over a period of eight years, starting in 1986, with a three-year grace period. Mr. Shamaleh went on to say that he has received a reply letter from Prime Minister Zaid Rifai in which the prime minister promised to look into the association's problems.

Rifai issues three circulars on contracting, engineering

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai has issued three circulars aimed at organising and supporting local contracting and engineering offices. The first circular requested all ministries and government departments not to award any contract to a foreign company unless the company has a Jordanian representative or an officially registered office in Jordan. In another circular Mr. Rifai requested that the provision of engineering services be restricted to local engineering offices and that priority in employment be given to local manpower at these offices.

In a third circular, the prime minister requested all ministries and government departments to check and endorse invoices submitted by contractors within one month of submission and to continue to pay contractors regularly.

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Spurious argument

OF all the arguments put forward by the British and the Americans against imposing economic sanctions on apartheid South Africa, none is more spurious than British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's contention that sanctions would put South African blacks out of jobs and cause hundreds of thousands of children in South Africa to starve. On its face, of course, Mrs. Thatcher's position is not illogical. Sanctions, if imposed, would reduce the level of economic activity in South Africa, and the resulting hardship can be expected to fall disproportionately on the most marginal elements of South African society: its 24 million strong black majority. But to forego the only real weapon the international community possesses that might force change on the Pretoria government, because it might increase the suffering of blacks, is to overlook the horrible human consequences that apartheid already imposes on the daily life of black South Africans.

The definition of apartheid is separation of blacks and whites, and nowhere could the disparity be greater than in South Africa's 10 rural "homelands," where it is estimated that at least nine million blacks live below the poverty line. The Pretoria government's policy of commercialising and mechanising agriculture has led to the dismantling of peasant farms and the creation of a seasonal labour force in the homelands. Five years of drought and the introduction of more efficient machinery has already left much of this labour force idle for most of the year. The consequences of this unemployment, as well as other aspects of apartheid, fall hardest on children.

When Mrs. Thatcher invokes the spectre of starving children in her opposition to economic sanctions, we can only assume she has somehow overlooked the terrible suffering which already afflicts South Africa's black children. While the official infant mortality rate among blacks — 80 per 1,000 live births — is already six times higher than that for whites, the rate in the homelands runs as high as 190 per 1,000. A 1984 study revealed that about one third of South Africa's black children under 14 are chronically malnourished, and that the death rate from malnutrition among blacks under age five is 31 times that of whites. South African children most often die from infectious and parasitic diseases that are almost unknown among whites. This is due to disparities in medical care, an indication of which may be seen in a doctor-patient ratio of 1-400 for whites that climbs to as high as 1-40,000 for blacks in the homelands.

It is clear from these figures that the essence of apartheid, beyond separation, is suffering. Even if the imposition of sanctions brings additional hardship for South African blacks, the situation would scarcely be worse, particularly for residents of the homelands. And while the abominable living conditions created by apartheid serve only to enrich South Africa's ruling white minority, any further ill effects wrought by sanctions would be part of a greater struggle to win freedom and self-rule. We hope that Mrs. Thatcher will soon see that for South Africa's blacks, that could make all the difference in the world.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Mobilising Arab ranks

KING Hussein's most recent visit to Baghdad for talks with President Saddam Hussein is part of a continued Jordanian effort aimed at clearing the way for mobilising Arab ranks and launching joint action in serving the national causes. The King had earlier visited Saudi Arabia and held telephone contacts with King Hassan of Morocco also for the sake of unifying Arab ranks and positions, and enabling the Arabs to remove all obstacles standing in the path of their understanding and cooperating for their common good. King Hussein realises that the present weakness characterising the Arab World and the differences that have been plaguing them over the past years opened the way for the enemies of this nation to hatch conspiracies, and encouraged the Iranian enemy to continue its aggression the eastern flank of the Arab Nation. The Arab Nation would have been saved from all these ills and its interests would have been safeguarded had there been cooperation among its leaders and serious determination to help the Arab masses overcome all challenges and dangers. King Hussein who is keen on safeguarding Arab interests is pursuing his mission and his task of unifying Arab ranks and resources and we hope that his endeavours will be fruitful and successful and that the Arab Nation would re-unify its ranks and work hard to regain its rights and its lands.

Al Dustour: Egypt deserves better

PRESIDENT Hosni Mubarak of Egypt addressed his ruling National Democratic Party in Cairo about his country's economic ills and the current situation in the Arab World. He paid tribute to the role which is being played by King Hussein in regaining the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland. The president said that his country will continue to cooperate with the Arab World but will not give up its political will, and will continue the struggle despite the economic difficulties it is facing. We are proud to hear the president clearly defining his country's stand and the determination of the Egyptian people to stand by other Arab countries. We were also pleased to see Saudi Arabia extending assistance of 200,000 tonnes of wheat to Egypt in expression of sympathy and support, but we would like to see more help pouring into Egypt and supporting the Egyptian people in their brave stand and in defiance of all pressures being exercised on them, Egypt which has announced on several occasions its firm stand by the countries of the Gulf region and its support for the Iraqi people deserves favourable treatment at a time when it is facing difficulties and confronting external pressure.

Sawt Al Shaab: King continues mission

KING Hussein's efforts to heal the rifts between Syria and Iraq coincided with urgent calls by President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt for solidarity among Arab countries. In an address to the ruling National Democratic Party in Cairo the president called on the Arabs to find a common ground for agreement and for solidarity in the face of common challenges and threats. The Egyptian and Jordanian leaders realise the enormous challenges and the threats facing the Arabs and they also realise that Jordan, Syria, Iraq and Egypt are concerned more than any other Arab countries with the future of this region as they stand face to face with enemy threats and dangers. These countries are more sensitive because they are more liable to face danger from the common enemies. They are also more concerned with establishing solidarity and forming unity of ranks. President Mubarak in a genuine call for the Arabs to unite coincided with King Hussein's practical steps aimed at ending differences between Iraq and Syria and unifying the stands of the Arab World in true implementation of the principles of the Great Arab Revolt.

Seeking the perfect circle

By Rami G. Khouri

TWO years ago, I wrote a column lamenting the passing away of an old friend, many of those new residents in Amman probably do not know. My old friend was the Wadi Sagra traffic circle, now only a dim memory buried beneath the traffic lights of the Wadi Sagra intersection.

As traffic circles went, Wadi Sagra was not particularly graceful. But it was dear to my heart. I passed through it four times a day on my way to and from the office. On good days, when I took the children for a drive in the late afternoon, I might pass through Wadi Sagra circle six times a day, and on those days would go to sleep particularly fortified with the certitude that though the world was not perfect, it was manageable.

Imagine my surprise, then, to wake up the other day and see a crew of workmen with their yellow machines tearing away at the Fourth Circle of Jabal Amman. At first I thought that the Fourth Circle was simply being beautified, perhaps with the world's largest Arabic coffee pot, or a 12-metre-high bouquet of bronze flowers.

Another circle's time was up, I thought. Then I realised, as the work progressed and the entire superstructure of the Fourth Circle gradually disappeared, that this was not a cosmetic job, but one of total eradication. The Fourth Circle, I discovered, was to join that select group of former

Circles, lodged in perpetuity in the collective memory of the Jordanian psyche.

Unlike Wadi Sagra Circle, however, the inevitable disappearance of the Fourth Circle left me unmoved. It was, from its inception less than a decade ago, an imperfect entity. For starters, it was not even a proper circle, but more like an oval. The Fourth Oval, I told myself in just every time I drove through it, ignoring the mad honking of taxi drivers who were uninterested in my private observations about the geometry of the road.

It was always a particularly difficult circle to drive through, mainly because of the tight turning angle one had to navigate at its extremities. All our other circles are neatly symmetrical beauties, through which one could drive at a constant speed and with a constant turning radius of the wheels. Not so in the ghastly Fourth Circle, though. One tended to speed, through the long sides of the circle, and slam on the brakes and madly turn the steering wheel to make it safely through the short ends.

Worse than its symmetrical imperfections, the Fourth Circle was really a circle and a half, for a mere metres to its east was a semi-circle that fronted on the main street that entered the Fourth Circle from the east. The Fourth Oval and A Half, I said to myself with a little chuckle every

time I navigated the hazardous route linking the two.

And to make matters even worse, the southern exit of the Fourth Circle was always a particularly dangerous zone, where drivers ventured with extreme caution, because four different roads converged there at an intersection that was, physiologically speaking, an appendage of the Fourth Circle. I have known honourable people who were frightened by the dangers of this self-contained public hazard that they always made it a point to avoid it at all costs, even making a detour that required nearly a kilometre of additional driving so as to avoid having to pass through the Fourth Circle area.

Not only did the Fourth Circle serve its automotive purposes in a flawed manner, it was also conspicuous for its almost absolute lack of relevance to people on foot. Some of Amman's other traffic circles, notably the Second and Third Circles, and even the mighty Fifth Circle, have always had a human purpose. They have neatly upkept gardens and walkways, and benches where folks could sit for a few minutes to relax, to ponder their next move in the urban landscape, or simply to contemplate the swirling significance of the automotive age.

These other, more meaningful, circles have sidewalks that are functional. You can actually walk across the Third Circle on your

way from one side to another, if you do not care particularly to stop en route and enjoy the scenery. The Fourth Circle has never had any of these redeeming urban graces. It has always been something to get around, rather than to enjoy a passage through. It was, in my mind, a circle without soul, an architectural element without lasting purpose or value.

I am not sorry to see the demise of the Fourth Circle. It does not much matter what replaces it. We will probably see in its place a neat new intersection, manned either by traffic lights, large burly traffic policemen, or petite traffic policewomen. Anything, in my mind, will be better than the existing configuration.

If there was a single redeeming feature of the Fourth Circle, in my view, it was the proximity to the circle of the collection of vans selling food on the road north of the circle. The knowledge that a sumptuous cheeseburger and french fries often lay on the other side of the Fourth Circle made my passage through the circle more palatable. This was, I thought, the hand of the Lord's at work, compensating for the deficiencies and evils that were inherent in the circle itself.

How ironic, then, that during the same week that work started on demolishing the Fourth Circle, the food vans were all moved several hundred metres away from the circle, towards the north. Or was this just a coincidental irony? Was it perhaps part of a cosmic

order that we tend to overlook as we drive through our diminishing collection of traffic circles, oblivious to the connections that may exist between traffic circles and the order of the universe?

Or have I always made too much of the traffic circles? Am I just a sentimental old fool whose emotional reservoir is so thin that I have to find compensatory gratification in a dying breed of traffic circles?

Is the Fourth Circle — like Wadi Sagra Circle before it, God bless its memory — perhaps symptomatic of something larger, and more meaningful? Should we understand the fate of these circles as perhaps reflecting a larger dynamic, conceived in heaven but implemented on earth by the Amman municipality's traffic department?

What is the meaning of the fact that our heritage and inventory of Jordanian traffic circles is slowly being erased from the face of the earth? If only the bad circles were vanishing, we could perhaps come to terms with the march of time and the facts of life on the road. But the onslaught is indiscriminate, even brutal.

Some of our finest circles are slated for destruction in the near future. Wadi Sagra Circle is already a memory. The interior Ministry Circle is now being transformed into something quite complex, and amazing. Even the mighty Fifth Circle, a roadmark in my life as well as on my daily

route, will be with us for only another year or so. The Eighth Circle, which once held a special place in Jordanian urbanism, has been transformed into a pedestrian whose circular soul has been slightly dimmed by the overhead highway. And how much longer can the Third Circle hold out?

It is getting harder and harder to find a really great circle in Jordan, and one has to travel further distances to enjoy the distinct pleasure that comes only from a finely conceived and delicately crafted circle. The final approach road to Queen Alia International Airport has several outstanding circles. There is a fine little new circle in the north Jordan Valley town of North Shouneh. Zai Circle, in the hills above Salt, is not bad. And Aqaba has several good ones, though no doubt they, too, will disappear one day when they cannot accommodate the rising volume of traffic.

Such is the scorecard in our Jordanian universe of traffic circles. I know there is some significance in all of this, though I have not yet grasped it fully. For the moment, let us at least rejoice that the awful Fourth Circle is in its last days. When we stop at the new traffic lights that will be erected there, we will have some more time to ponder it all more deeply, and perhaps come to grips with the meaning of it all.

United States faces growing resentment in Panama

By Tom Brown

Reuter

PANAMA CITY — Anti-American sentiment is intensifying in Panama as this tiny Central American nation rides out its worst economic and political crises in years.

The United States and Panama have always had a love-hate relationship since Washington engineered Panama's independence from Colombia in 1903.

But Panamanians, in government and opposition circles alike, have seldom been so resentful of the so-called "colossus of the north," to whom their country is of immense strategic importance.

Not since the troubled era leading to the signing of the Panama Canal treaties seven years ago has Washington been embroiled in such a complex dispute with its ally.

The first breakup in U.S.-Panamanian relations dates back to September last year when Nicolas Ardito Barletta, a bland but respected U.S.-educated economist, resigned as president under pressure from Panama's powerful military leadership.

Barletta, backed by the military and a favourite of Washington, came to power in May 1984 elections that marked Panama's first direct presidential election in 16 years.

His victory by a margin of 1,713 out of about 640,000 secretly tabulated votes came amid widespread charges of fraud.

The Reagan administration overlooked allegations of fraud despite protests by supporters of the leading opposition candidate, whose political headquarters were vandalised and shut down by the military the day Barletta took office.

What was dubbed Panama's "transitional democracy" by one disgruntled U.S. diplomat, given Barletta's meagre winning margin, came to an abrupt end when he was forced out of office less than a year after his inauguration.

Washington was clearly angry and moved quickly to cut off economic aid to Panama.

Already virtually bankrupt and saddled with a foreign debt of \$3.6 billion, Panama was hit hard by the suspension of U.S. aid and sudden shelving of scheduled agreements with the World Bank and commercial creditors.

U.S. ties with the new government, headed by former Vice President Eric Arturo Delvalle, were kept on ice for a long time but seemed to begin thawing in March after the government pushed through unpopular economic reforms.

Troubles with Washington were far from over, however, as a recent torrent of U.S. reports have demonstrated.

before, as have most of the allegations against Noriega, to the effect that he has amassed huge profits from drug and gun trafficking and other illicit activities.

There has never been any proof to back the claims, all of which Noriega has repeatedly denied.

Government officials led by President Delvalle insist the reports about Noriega are nothing but "lies and slander," published as part of a carefully-orchestrated campaign to give the government and its military backers a bad image abroad.

Delvalle has blamed the campaign on "bad Panamanians," meaning the opposition, and Panama's "enemies" in America.

The reports about Noriega have been termed "yankee imperialism" by the Panamanian left.

And while the reports have revived fierce anti-colonialist sentiments for some government supporters, fuelled by memories of U.S. influence in the past, they have also further damaged U.S. credibility with Panama's democratic opposition.

Some critics complain that Noriega's alleged wrongdoing is overlooked because of his importance to U.S. intelligence and military authorities.

The U.S. southern command, headquarters for U.S. military operations in the Central and South America, is based in Panama.

The view shared by most opposition spokesmen, ever since the 1984 elections, is that Washington's concerns here have little to do with fostering democracy.

Washington's main concern, the opposition says, is ensuring it has a stable, relatively friendly ally in Panama's rulers.

This deteriorates the image of North America very seriously at a very crucial time in Central America," Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the conservative Christian Democratic Party, said in a recent interview.

Arias called U.S. policy hypocritical: "The entire U.S. policy with respect to Nicaragua is based on the supposed demand for the democratisation of Nicaragua. But it turns out that here in Panama the United States is likely to an anti-democratic military regime."

Diplomats and most political analysts here agree Noriega appears to have weathered the scathing reports about him well.

There is a general feeling that he will not remain out of the spotlight for long, however, and U.S.-Panamanian relations appear destined to grow worse before they get any better.

One high-ranking U.S. diplomat said of U.S. policy here, "it's very complicated because there are too many interests involved."

The diplomat and other U.S. officials have hinted without stating it openly that while Washington is moving cautiously because of key strategic interests here, it would like to see a less controversial figure replace Noriega.

As long as he is in power, Noriega is a potential problem for Washington. As one U.S. diplomat said, "you can do a lot of damage by backing people into corners."

Pro-Israel lobby pushes for full alliance between U.S. and Israel

The following article on the activities of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), by Wolf Blitzer, is reprinted from the Israeli newspaper, the Jerusalem Post.

THE pro-Israel lobby in Washington is expanding its traditional agenda as the nature of the American-Israel relationship continues to change.

Tom Dine, executive director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), has described how his organisation is currently gearing up to the new challenges posed by what he called "a revolution" in ties between Washington and Tel Aviv.

AIPAC is still, of course, very much involved in promoting U.S. economic and military assistance to Israel. That is the group's bread-and-butter issue. It also opposes — if not always actively fights — U.S. arms sales to Arab states. But it is now clearly moving beyond those issues as U.S.-Israel strategic cooperation expands.

"Israel, more and more, is being considered an equal to the NATO countries," Dine told The Jerusalem Post. As a result, AIPAC is exploring the possibility of supporting legislation in Congress which would formally make Israel — along with Japan, Australia and South Korea — America's "equal partners," just like the NATO allies. The benefits for Israel would be very significant.

"We're working closely with both the House and Senate Armed Services Committees," Dine said. "That's a change right there — working with those two committees." He was referring to the fact that AIPAC has always focused most of its attention on four other committees: House Foreign Affairs; Senate Foreign Relations; and House and Senate Appropriations. Those are the panels which must approve all foreign-aid legislation.

But because of the Gramm-Rudman budget-cutting mood in Washington, Dine said, "the future is not aid." The aid levels were not going to increase "unless there was a Syrian-Israel war and Israel was just flattened economically. I'm sure America would be there to help Israel out economically."

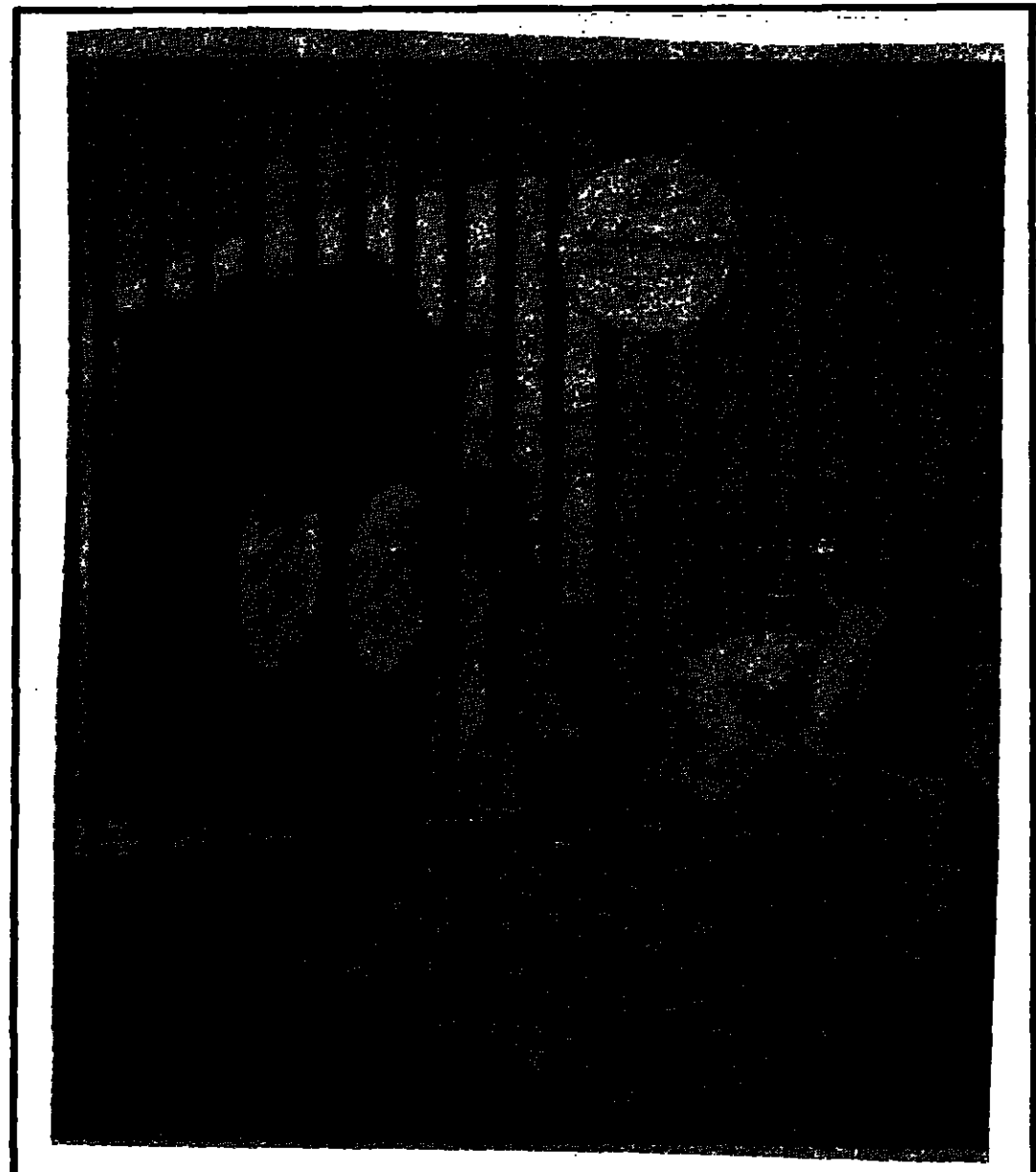
But short of that, the real future for Israel is "making sure that the economy is led by high-tech exports."

There is much the U.S. can do to help. This is especially true in the executive branch of the government said Dine.

"Imagine a guy who knows the basement and the bowels of all the bureaucracies in Washington, the relevant ones — commerce, special trade representative, state, treasury, agriculture, and defence. If we know of opportunities, we can take advantage of them, and get the Hill involved as well."

Thus, AIPAC has become an active supporter of the many direct and indirect efforts to promote Israel exports, including Operation Independence, a private initiative of several prominent American Jewish businessmen. "I want AIPAC to help make sure that that's a successful operation," Dine said.

AIPAC was earlier very much involved in lobbying the Congress to support the establishment of



the U.S.-Israel free trade area. "We are obviously pushing the U.S.-Israel relationship closer and closer," Dine said. "What's the dream? It's full-fledged alliance."

The Pollard spy scandal has had a damaging effect, at least in the short term, "I'm wary," Dine said. "I'm concerned that the Israelis have not come to terms with its meaning here."

Still, he believes the strains can be overcome. "I think it has caused a pause. I think it has caused some apprehension. But I do not see it shaking the American-Israel relationship."

Dine, a former State Department foreign service officer and Senate aide, who has been with AIPAC for five years, was critical of Israel's involvement in the Pollard affair.

He expressed the hope that the final unresolved aspects of the case would be settled quickly, so that the U.S.-Israel relationship could bounce back to normal and then continue to expand.

In looking back over the past few years, Dine suggested that a turning point in the American-Israel relationship occurred in December 1982, when Congress, on its own, appropriated an extra \$200 million in assistance for Israel, despite the active opposition of the Reagan administration. That congressional action, which followed the acronymy of the 1981 Saudi AWACS surveillance aircraft battle and the subsequent strains of the Lebanon war, sent a powerful signal to the

administration. Israel's standing on Capitol Hill was seen as very solid; and as a result, the administration moved to strengthen ties with Israel in the military-strategic arena.

"I think the future is the 'Nationalisation' stuff and enhancing Israel's economic opportunities," Dine said.

AIPAC, in the coming months, can also be expected to promote efforts in Congress to revise the law on blocking foreign arms sales. As it currently stands, the president can push through sales to Saudi Arabia and other Arab states by simply winning over only a third of the Senate.

This was dramatically underlined earlier this summer, when the Saudi missile sale was allowed to go forward even though a clear majority of senators and representatives had opposed it. But changing the existing law will not be easy.

AIPAC is also quietly exploring ways to reduce the interest rates on America's outstanding military loans to Israel. An earlier effort by Democratic Senators Daniel Inouye and Bob Kasten was scrubbed after Pollard's arrest last November. That initiative, which was well on its way to being passed, would have saved Israel an immediate \$531 million. But as the Wall Street Journal noted on July 14, there was an "unstated discomfort" among members of the Senate Appropriations Committee in the aftermath of the Pollard affair. AIPAC, however, is now again testing the water to

see if it might be revived in a revised form. That also will not be easy.

Another fresh item on the AIPAC agenda, Dine said, involves a two-year-old amendment by Democratic Representative Howard Berman to transfer some \$5 million a year to Israel for developmental aid projects in Africa.

"I think the Berman amendment is quite small," Dine said. "But it has so many ramifications about the dramatically changed relationship."

The idea was that Israel would be asked to help Africa — not secretly as in the early 1960's, but openly — with technology and expertise. "It's more positive, cleaner. It shows that the relationship has gone from rhetoric and sentiment and pity to real cooperation. And that's so exciting."

Dine also insisted that a closer American-Israel connection would actually promote the Arab-Israel peace process.

"If the relationship is dangling, if it's not close — filled with contention and contempt — no Arab is going to say it's worth it to make peace with Israel. They'll say, 'let's get back to the salami tactics'."

But in the process of expanding its traditional agenda, AIPAC has upset some influential people in the U.S. There has recently been criticism of its style, growth and policies.



The EB4 sanctuary area, directly overlooking the Wadi Kerak (in right of photo). The wadi bed is well below the level of the settlement, but in antiquity the wadi bed was about 28 metres higher than it is today.

Archaeologists speculate on destruction of Bab edh-Dhra' in the 24th century B.C.

Text and photos
By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

The following is part four in a series of articles on archaeological finds along the south-eastern shores of the Dead Sea. The first four of these articles, on excavations at the Bab edh-Dhra' site, appeared in this week's Jordan Times, while the others are planned for next week.

THE Early Bronze Age III town at Bab edh-Dhra' (and its satellite community at Numeira) came to a sudden and violent end around 2350 B.C. This was thought to have resulted from either a natural catastrophe, such as an earthquake, or an enemy attack.

Dr. Walter Rast and Tom Schaub, who headed the Bab edh-Dhra' excavations, are inclined towards the enemy attack explanation. They suggest that those people who many have thought were EB III Bab edh-Dhra' — the EB IV population for which there is abundant evidence at Bab edh-Dhra' — remained on the site for several generations.

It is also possible that the EB III town may have collapsed from a combination of economic difficulties, natural catastrophes (earthquake or disease) and perhaps even geological problems, such as severe erosion or drying up of the town's springs. There may also have been something of an ancient energy crisis, for Dr. Rast points out that the extensive exploitation of the area's woodlands could not have gone on indefinitely.

Dr. David McCreery, who analysed the ancient plant remains, suggests that after more than a thousand years of agricultural activity on the same limited area of cultivable land, soil salinity may also have contributed to the demise of the town.

Whatever it was that ended the EB III town's life, there was a brief occupational gap until the EB-IV period (2350-2000 B.C.), when the site was again inhabited by a community that stayed there for perhaps another 150 years. The EB IV people finally abandoned Bab edh-Dhra'

around 2200/2150 B.C., at a time when many other urban sites in Jordan/Palestine were similarly abandoned.

At the north end of the Bab edh-Dhra' site, excavations revealed what seems to be a rare EB IV sanctuary. It consists of a round structure in the latest phase, and a compact rectangular building with finely plastered walls somewhat earlier. In the vicinity of these two buildings were sheep or goat horns, possibly of sacrificed animals, and the base of a fine burnished incense burner.

Though some of the EB IV people settled on the north part of the former walled town, most lived outside the site. They were particularly attracted to the cooler, higher areas to the north-east, close to water sources in nearby wadis.

In some cases, they tried to reconstruct and re-use EB III terrace walls within the walled town, probably to counter the damage from natural erosion that had occurred at the site for hundreds of years.

Dr. Jack Donahue's geological investigations have shown that in the Early Bronze Age, the Wadi Kerak was 28 metres higher than its present level. A perennial spring also probably existed towards the south side of the site, within the fortification walls.

By the EB IV period, severe erosion, combined with occasional fault movements and uplifting, eroded away much of the northern part of the site. This also dried up the town's internal spring, and caused two major gullies to ravage much of the area within the walls.

For these reasons, when the EB IV people settled on the site, they built most of their dwellings

outside the area of the former EB III town. They also continued to use the vast cemetery, but reverted to the shaft tomb burials similar to those first employed by the EB IV shafts, unlike their earlier predecessors, were usually lined with stones from top to bottom.

Primary burials were still the rule, with successive interments still causing the displacement of earlier burial practices between the EB III and EB IV populations, offset, however, by similarities in their architectural style and construction techniques.

A lively debate continues about whether the EB IV people at Bab edh-Dhra' were somehow derived from the EB III community, or were new arrivals from outside the valley.

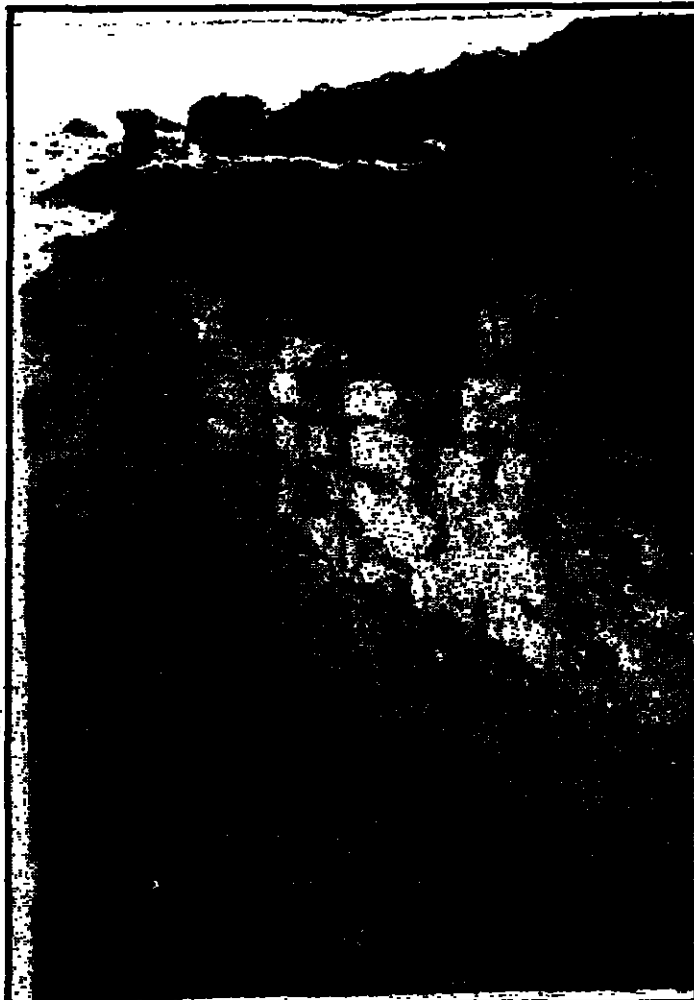
The Bab edh-Dhra' site was finally abandoned for good around 2200/2150 B.C., during a period of great upheaval throughout the ancient Middle East. Village and town sites throughout Jordan/Palestine were suddenly vacated during the EB IV period, with the exception of only a handful of known sites in the area (such as Khirbet Iskandar, in the Wadi Wala in the highlands, or Tell Iktanu and Tell Umm Hammad in the Jordan Valley north of the Dead Sea).

Several possible reasons for this widespread decline of urban settlements in the area have been suggested. They include climatic changes, disruptions in trade and economic patterns, military attacks, or natural catastrophes such as repeated earthquakes or plagues. After the Early Bronze Age, Bab edh-Dhra' entered several thousand years of total abandonment, with only the occasional nomad, hunting group or travelling party passing near the site en route to some other destination.

The greater Southern Ghos region, however, was not abandoned. Recent archaeological surveys have identified scores of ancient sites in



(Above) Dr. Tom Schaub examines the plastered doorway to the EB4 sanctuary/cultic building at Bab edh-Dhra'. (Below) a presumed cultic installation from the EB4 period, consisting of a stone slab resting on a thick base built of mud-bricks.



the vicinity of Bab edh-Dhra', particularly in the adjacent Wadi Kerak and Ghor el-Mazra'a.

The survey evidence, and limited excavations during the past several decades, show that agricultural villages and other forms of permanent human settlements flourished in the Southern Ghos during the Roman, Byzantine and Medieval Islamic periods. Among the more important sites that are known of, from both standing architectural remains and literary references, is

the modern village of Safi, 32 kilometres south of Bab edh-Dhra'.

Safi and its standing ruins known as *Tawahin es-sukkar* ("the sugar mills") has been identified with the Medieval Arab town of Zughar (a major trading post also famous for its sugar and indigo), the Byzantine town known as Zoara (identified in the Madaba mosaic map of Palestine as "Zoar, one of the five Cities of the Plain that also included the wicked Sodom and Gomorrhah).

British beer goes flat in Europe

By Lisa Wood

LONDON: Further evidence of the difficulties British brewers have had in venturing across the English Channel came recently with the announcement of the proposed sale by Grand Metropolitan, the drinks, leisure and hotels group, of its remaining continental European brewing subsidiary.

It was Watney Mann and Truman, before it was acquired by Grand Metropolitan in 1972, which was the chief trailblazer on to the continent. It bought the Maes Brewery in Belgium in 1966 and the Stern brewing company in West Germany in 1973.

Stern was sold earlier this year and Maes is about to be sold to a new joint venture.

Other big brewers which followed the trail to the continent — at a time of optimism about the opportunities afforded to Britain by joining the European Community — included Bass, which bought the La Motte Brewery in Belgium, Vaux, which bought Liefmann's in Belgium, Whitbread, which took a share in an Italian brewery, and Allied Breweries, which bought Oranjeboom's Rotterdam brewery in 1967.

Mr. Colin Mitchell, stockbrokers Buckmaster Moor, said: "At that time in the U.K. there was the rise in big national ale brands, such as Double Diamond, which were available from Lands End to John O'Groats."

"That thinking was naively translated into Europe, where tastes were much more parochial and the industry more fragmented. And it is a market still very fragmented, despite the obvious leaders such as Heineken."

Soon only Allied Lyons will have a brewery on the continent, where it competes directly with Dutch breweries. Whitbread has a plant in Belgium which packages and distributes imported pale ale and Campbell's Scotch ale.

While Whitbread claims its subsidiary to be profitable, that of Allied Lyons, which brews Skol lager, has had a troubled past, with less beer consumed in The Netherlands coupled with pressure on profit margins because of government price controls.

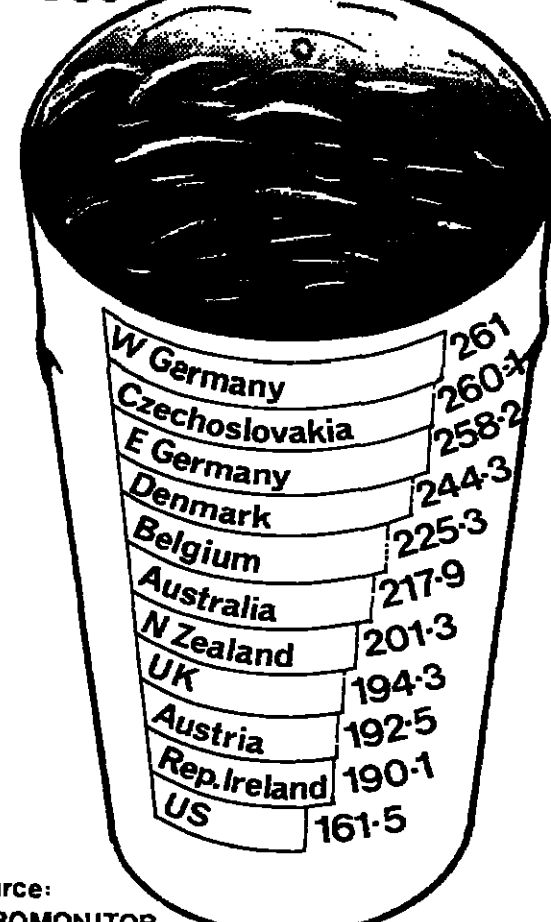
In many cases those involved in the strategy are no longer at the helm. Traditional brewers have been replaced by men with a background in branded consumer products and retailing, identified by the industry — in particular Guinness and Grand Metropolitan and Allied Lyons — as growth areas.

Mr. Paul Nicholson, chairman and managing director for Vaux, the Sunderland brewery which sold Liefmann's in Belgium last year, said: "Lager is the main drink on the Continent, although Belgium has a tradition of some darker beers."

"British brewers sending over their ales had a small market, or if they tried to produce mainstream products they were up against competitors which had been in the

THE WORLD'S TOP BEER CONSUMERS

(Pints per head of population)
1983



Source:
EUROMONITOR

market much longer."

Vaux, like other brewers at the time, thought that by gaining a foothold in one continental market it could move the product into others. An important target is West Germany, the biggest beer market in the EEC.

It found, however, that in addition to transport costs there was the greater problem of the ancient Reinheitsgebot — a German purity law — which allows only malted barley, hops, yeast and water to be included in beer.

It is a law which still in effect keeps the huge German market closed to other European brews, and one which is the object of a contested European Court of Justice ruling that it violates free trade.

Mr. Alan Evans of consultants Meinhard Associates points out that British brewers, in their ventures on to the continent, found a different retailing scene, where they did not have the benefits of owning their own pubs through which to sell their beer.

"On the continent the market was and is still much more oriented towards take-home beer than Britain, and the brewer has a much reduced margin," said Mr. Evans.

"Maes, for example, by Belgian standards did quite well but as far as Grand Metropolitan was concerned profitability was restrained."

At the same time as the British

were venturing into northern European markets, said Mr. Evans, the long-term trend for beer consumption in those countries was downward.

Instead of the continent being awash with British ale brands, it is the British who have developed a taste for continental beers.

Lager brands brewed by British companies under franchise, or imported from continental and other foreign brewers, accounted for an estimated 80 per cent of the fast-growing U.K. lager market before the recent announcement by Bass that it had acquired the trademarks of Carlin Black Label and Carling lager from Carling O'Keefe, the Canadian brewer.

No British ale brands are produced under franchise by any continental brewer, although there is a small but growing market for British beers.

Last year 323,000 barrels worth more than £17 million (\$26 million) were exported. Brands include those of Guinness and Bass.

Such business is, however, tiny compared with the present preoccupations of the U.K. brewing industry, which in addition to retailing and diversifications such as hotels, is concentrating on the development of international wine and spirits branded businesses.

It is a market shake-up that is not finished — Financial Times Feature.

25 centuries after its first night, Medea draws a full house at ancient open-air theatre in Greece

By Granville Watts
Reuters

EPIDAUROS, Greece — Almost 25 centuries after its first night, Euripides' great tragedy Medea drew a full house of 14,000 people at the ancient open air amphitheatre at Epidaurus.

Thunderous applause greeted the players of the Athens Theatre Group as they marched onto the circular stage last week and one could not help feeling that Euripides would have been pleased.

The reviews in the Athens press the next day were ecstatic particularly on the performance of actress Jenny Karezi whose portrayal of Medea had the audience on its feet shouting "bravo" at the end.

Medea, first staged in ancient Greece in 431 B.C., is even older, by about a century, than the great limestone amphitheatre here. It is the highlight of the annual summer classical Greek theatre festival held in this enchanted spot among wooded hills and scented pines.

Acoustics

The acoustics at Epidaurus are so perfect you can hear the performer's gown rustle across the stage from any part of the 55 stone tiers.

You can also hear the slightest cough or sigh among the wrapt

audience. The wail of a child just before the play opened brought a gust of laughter from the crowd.

The stage rises from a circle of earth in the shape of a giant ox head, with the horns forming the wings and a wide circular opening in the middle in which the actors appear and disappear.

There is no curtain. No backdrop or stage scenery. Only the distant blue hills and dark green pines just as they were when Medea was first played here.

The huge crowd travelled from all parts of Greece for this homage to the great.

People begin to gather hours before the play is due to start. There are picnics among the pines. It is a kind of pilgrimage and there is magic in the air as the light slowly drains from the sky and a half moon and stars appear.

One hour before the play starts the theatre is almost full. The noise of the audience, a roar in this vast stone chamber, turns to applause as the actors appear in a pagan-like procession through the trees, their garments and jewellery glittering in the moonlight.

The tragedy of Medea is universal. The thousands of foreign tourists in the audience do not need to know Greek to understand this woman's terrible anguish as she slays her children in vengeance against her husband Jason who has spurned her for a younger wife.

It is an awful act but Euripides, perhaps the first recorded feminist, treats her sympathetically and at the end of the play she is rescued by the gods and taken away in a golden chariot.

Modern Greece, beset by economic and other problems and a minor nation in the present world, appears to take strength from these classical occasions.

Emotions are stirred and people are reminded that Western civilisation began in these islands.

Intense concentration

The concentration of the mainly Greek audience is intense. The play lasts two hours. There has been no interval and not one member of the huge audience has left their seat.

For those who have travelled for three hours from Athens they are faced by a similar journey home, arriving back in the capital at 2.30 a.m.

But the long journey, the hard stone seats (V.I.P.s have cushions), the lack of back rests on the tiers, all these things are forgotten in the experience of Epidaurus.

After the performance, the vast crowd roars away in buses and cars. Within 20 minutes the theatre has emptied and is silent again with its ghosts from down the centuries.

Finns share Latin passion for tango

By Peter Verschoor
Reuters

SEINAJOKI, Finland — The driving, erotic rhythm of the tango seems almost synonymous with the fiery Latin temperament of its Argentine roots.

But in north eastern Europe, despite the chill from the Arctic circle, the Finns have developed an abiding passion for its drums.

Finland's tango, celebrated at an annual festival in the northern town of Seinajoki, differs from Argentine counterparts in characteristically being set in minor keys, giving them a melancholy drift.

"They almost always tell about unhappy love," according to this year's festival winner, singer Teuvo Oinas. "Typical of the Finnish tango is its sadness and the deep feelings described in it."

31-year old Oinas told Reuters. For two days in July, the tango is all over town, with concerts, street dancing and most important, the contest for singers competing for the title of King of the Tango.

Oinas is a professional bass-player, whose home is in Rovaniemi above the Arctic circle.

The festival attracts tango fans from all over Finland. Everyone, young and old, loves the tango, "although some youngsters may have a period when they only go for disco music," musicologist Juhani Simila said.

When he turned 30, "I realised the tango is really part of the

Finnish musical heritage and I began to appreciate it," 36-year-old Simila said.

The song contest attracted 128 tango singers from all over Finland this year, and despite heavy rain, some 15,000 Finns came for the festival. Armed with plastic raincoats, they let passions soar to the fiery rhythms of the bands.

While only the most determined ventured to dance outside, Seinajoki's restaurants heaved with revellers.

The Finnish passion for the tango dates back to the early years of the century.

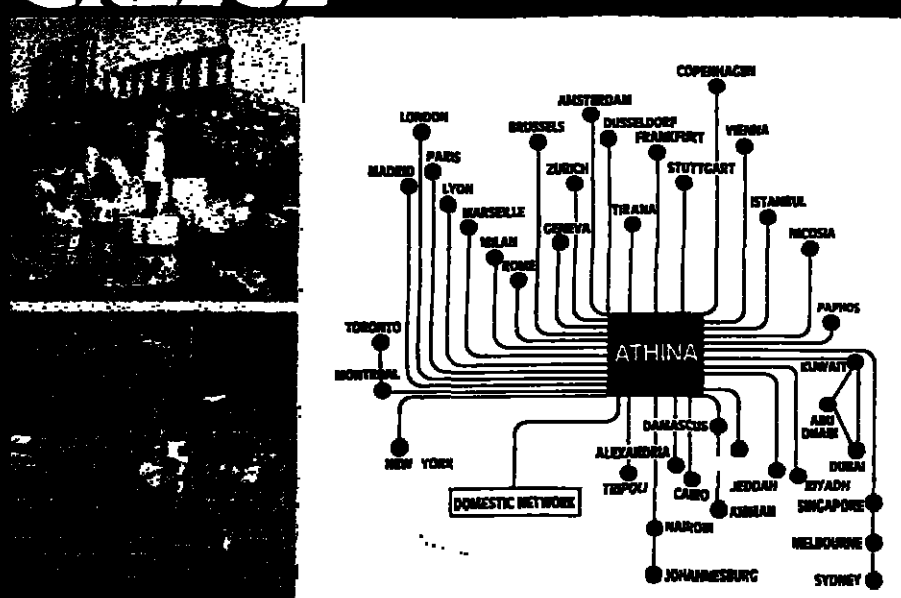
"Since then the tango has always remained popular, and during some periods, like the mid-30s and the early 60s, the tango really experienced a boom," Simila said.

The singing of the tango melody is still male-dominated. "The Finnish tango is actually very difficult to sing," female pop singer Tarja Ylitalo told Reuters. "It needs a strong, mature and full voice, so it is mainly men that can really sing the Finnish tango."

In a restaurant packed with hundreds of Finns swaying on the dance floor, Hilkka Patynen seemed a little out of place, dressed for a disco rather than a tango.

But she too had the fever for the evening. "The tango is so basic, so definitely part of Finland, that of course I had to come here," she said, as she danced away with her cavalier.

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Commonwealth Games hit by withdrawals

EDINBURGH (R) — Three more nations joined the list of absentees from the 13th Commonwealth Games Monday making the 10-day sporting event the smallest for 32 years.

Sri Lanka, Cyprus and the Seychelles took the total number of withdrawals to 27 leaving only 31 competing teams.

Not since the Vancouver Games of 1954, when 662 competitors from 24 nations participated in nine sports, have so few teams been involved.

Yet organisers were still expecting around 2,200 competitors and officials — a figure similar to the total in Brisbane four years ago.

The boycott, over Britain's refusal to agree to impose economic sanctions on South Africa, has decimated start lists in several sports and caused a major re-scheduling headache for organisers.

Boxing is one of the worst hit sports with around half the original 164 entrants knocked out by the withdrawals.

Athletics, the Games' showpiece, has also been badly affected with track stars like

Jamaica's 400 metres world champion Bert Cameron, Olympic 3,000 metres gold medalist Julius Korir of Kenya and classy Nigerian sprinter Chidi Ima all missing.

Swimming, weightlifting, cycling, bowls and rowing, traditionally dominated by Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the home countries, remain virtually unaffected by the boycott.

But all boxing's 12 weight categories have been badly hit, with the three remaining fighters in the light-flyweight division from an original entry of nine, now guaranteed medals.

But it will be on the athletics track that the boycott will be felt the most.

Nigeria's early withdrawal denied the games a chance of hosting what would have been a glittering 100 metres showdown between the talented Ima, who beat quadruple Olympic gold

medallist Carl Lewis at the recent Goodwill Games in Moscow, and Canadian Ben Johnson, Olympic bronze medallist and fastest man in the world this year.

The absence of several leading Caribbean nations will also have serious repercussions in the sprint events.

The women's races will be considerably devalued by the absence of Jamaica's Merlene Ottey-Page, 200 metres gold medalist from Brisbane, and her elegant compatriot Grace Jackson.

Women's long jump champion Shonel Ferguson of the Bahamas is another who cannot defend her crown while Kenya's Korir, holder of the fastest 3,000 metres steeplechase time in the world this year, would surely have claimed his second successive gold here.

Two other well-known Nigerians, Innocent Egbunike and Sunday Uti, miss the chance to do battle with Cameron in the 400 metres, while 10,000 metres champion Gidamis Shahanga of Tanzania is another who will surrender his crown without making an appearance.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Pfitzinger wins San Francisco Marathon

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Pete Pfitzinger won his second San Francisco Marathon title Sunday, completing the course in 2 hours, 13.29 minutes to finish almost two minutes ahead of runner-up Gidamis Shahanga of Tanzania. The women's winner, in 2:37.58, was Maria Trujillo of Mexico. Janine Aiello of the United States took second in 2:39.30.

Boycott bats his 151st century

LONDON (R) — Former England opener Geoff Boycott, in his 46th year, scored his 151st first-class hundred to guide Yorkshire to a strong position in their English County Championship cricket match against Surrey at Headingley Sunday. Surrey finished the second day of the three-day match on 15 for three in their second innings. 23 runs behind Yorkshire. England's new opening batsman Martyn Moxon was dismissed for three but Boycott put on 114 in 34 overs with Ashley Metcalfe and 159 in 56 overs with Kevin Sharp.

Mandlikova leads Czechs

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia (AP) — Hana Mandlikova beat Angeliki Kanellopoulou of Greece 6-1, 5-7, 6-3 Monday to help Czechoslovakia advance to the second round of the Federation Cup.

The United States' team was idle, waiting to begin play Tuesday. Leading the Americans is Martina Navratilova, back in Czechoslovakia for the first time since the defection in 1975. The United States opens against China on the day courts of the St. Anne Tennis Center.

Mandlikova's teammate, Helena Sukova, won in straight sets, 6-2, 6-0 over Olga Tsarbaopoulou, sealing a second-round slot for the Czechoslovaks.

They will play Switzerland, which eliminated Malta.

Other first-round winners in this week-long national team event included Argentina, which beat Uruguay behind Gabriela Sabatini's 6-1, 6-1 defeat of Fiorella Bonicelli; Yugoslavia, which eliminated Norway with Sabrina Goleš beating Amy Jonsson 6-2, 6-0. Denmark, which

ousted Britain behind singles winners Lone Vandborg and Tine Scheuer-Larsen; and South Korea, which dropped only one game in sweeping a pair of singles and one doubles match from Egypt.

Mandlikova, who lost to Navratilova in the women's championship match at Wimbledon two weeks ago, broke Kanellopoulou's serve in the second and fifth games of the first set, then stumbled in the second set as she lost serve in the sixth game.

The world's third-ranked player broke back in the seventh and ninth games, but lost serve again in the 10th decisive 12th game.

The third set was all Mandlikova's, breaking in the third and seventh games.

The biggest upset of the first day was Denmark advancing to the second round over Britain, which was seeded sixth.

Vandborg beat Anne Hobbs in the first singles match 3-6, 7-5, 6-3, and Scheuer-Larsen clinched the victory with a 6-3, 6-1 triumph over Jo Durie that took just 1 hour, 12 minutes.

Goodwill Games a mixed success

By Kenneth Jantz
Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW — The inaugural Goodwill Games, which ended Sunday, produced controversy in several events, but also provided thrilling performances and six world records.

Despite small crowds, low television ratings and a multi-million dollar loss, Turner Broadcasting System officials billed the Games a success.

The Soviets ended the Games with a flourish Sunday, winning nine of 11 head-to-head races in rowing, taking all three medals in super heavyweight weightlifting and capturing one of two possible golds in judo.

Among the world records posted were those by Soviet Sergei Bubka in the pole vault, American Jackie Joyner in the heptathlon and Soviet swimmer Vladimir Salnikov in the 800-metre freestyle. The other three world records were in cycling.

The Soviet Union ended the competition with a total of 118 golds and 244 medals overall. The United States finished with 42 golds and 140 medals overall.

Cable broadcasting magnate Ted Turner, the Games' chief sponsor, said organisers already are preparing for the next Goodwill Games, slated for Seattle, Washington, in 1990.

Most competitors and coaches praised the Games, originally proposed by Turner to get Soviet and American athletes together in Summer Olympic-type events for the first time in a decade.

Several coaches said the Games would help them better prepare for the 1988 Olympics, while others said it was healthy for Americans and Soviets to meet in sporting competition.

"It's good to get our athletes over here," U.S. boxing coach Roosevelt Sanders said. "The more people get to know one another the better. It may not help anything, but it can't hurt."

In the Games' major

controversies, the U.S. swimming team lodged a quick-start protest in a race it won. The Americans thought they could do better than their 1-6-7-8 finish.

In track, American coach Harry Groves was angered when the Soviets divided several races into two-section finals and put their best runner into the expected slower section.

Soviet sports official Levon Savadze said that since the Games were being held in an "atmosphere of goodwill and cooperation, we decided to violate some of the rules."

In Boxing, American Harvey Richards was disqualified on a low-blow call, but the ruling was overturned two days later — just six hours before he had to box again.

Although ranking Kremlin officials praised the 17-day Games as a way of breaking down barriers between the superpowers, they said they competition did not prompt a decision on Soviet participation in the 1988 Olympics.

The Soviet Union indicated that Kremlin participation in the 1988 Games, slated for Seoul, South Korea, would depend on whether the International Olympic Committee allows communist North Korea to serve as co-host.

In other memorable moments, the American women's basketball team crushed the Soviets 83-60 in the final, handing the Soviet national team its first defeat in a major international tournament in 28 years.

In volleyball, the Soviet Union rallied to down the United States

in a thrilling five-game final, while Soviet gymnast Yelena Shushunova collected four golds and two silvers to end up the Games' biggest medal winner.

Soviet men gymnast Valentin Mogilyov and American swimmer Angel Myers each earned five medals.

The American swimming team, consisting of third and fourth-place finishers in the national championships, made an unexpectedly strong showing, earning 49 medals, 15 of them gold.

The Soviet Union placed 19 boxers in the finals and won 11 of 12 possible gold medals. Arthur Johnson was the only American boxer to earn a gold, after nine leading military boxers were struck from the team by a U.S. Defence Department ban that prevented them from travelling to Moscow.

Turner acknowledged U.S. television ratings were so low for the Goodwill events that he would have to return money to some cable operators. Final ratings were not yet available. Turner said if each station subscriber holding the so-called cash-back option demanded money, it could cost his network "up to five million dollars." He said he expected to lose between \$10 and \$15 million on the Games, more than his original estimate.

TBS officials said they expected to recoup their losses in Seattle, adding that they hoped to attract 5,000 athletes from more than 100 countries. Some 3,500 athletes from 76 countries competed in the Moscow Games.

Mayotte leads U.S. to Davis Cup win

LONDON (R) — Tim Mayotte overcame two match points, a rowdy Mexican crowd and an alien court to steer the United States into the semifinals of the Davis Cup in Mexico City Sunday night.

After serving 14 double faults in the first three sets, when he was visibly distracted by the incessant whistles and jeers of the 15,000 spectators, the world's number 10 finally overcame 1985 Wimbledon junior champion Leo Lavalle 7-5, 4-6, 6-6, 6-4, 9-7.

Mayotte's marathon four-hour victory gave the U.S. an unassailable 3-1 lead in the tie and allowed a relaxed Brad Gilbert to increase their advantage by beating Francisco Maciel 7-5, 1-6, 7-5 in the final "dead" singles.

The United States will now travel to Brisbane in October where they will meet traditional rivals Australia, who beat Britain 4-1 at Wimbledon, for a place in the final.

The other semifinal will be

between Czechoslovakia and 1984 and 1985 winners Sweden, who whitewashed Yugoslavia and Italy respectively.

Mayotte, who has a typically American distrust of slow, clay courts, appeared totally disconcerted when he left the court in the Palace of Sports indoor arena for the 15-minute interval at the end of the third set.

Both Mayotte and non-playing captain Tom Gorman had protested repeatedly to French referee Patrick Flodrops throughout the first three sets about the behaviour of the Mexican fans, who had played an equally controversial role in the first round victory over West Germany.

French umpire Michel Perrot, who ordered one point to be replayed after the spectators had whistled as Mayotte prepared for an easy smash which he netted, warned the crowd on one occasion that play would be stopped if they did not keep quiet.

U.S. wrests basketball crown from Soviets

By Douglas Dominick
Reuters

MADRID — The United States wrested the men's world basketball crown from defending champions the Soviet Union Sunday night with an exciting 87-85 victory in the final.

The Americans established an early lead and were always faster and more accurate than their opponents, who showed signs of fatigue after Friday night's tough contest against Yugoslavia.

Led by star guard Kenny Smith, who was top scorer with 23 points, the Americans never relinquished their lead and ended the first half with a 10-point edge.

They stretched their advantage in the second half to 18 points before the Russians fought back to within two points with 55 seconds to go. But in a thrilling climax they were unable to snatch victory.

The Soviet rally was spearheaded by guard Valdemaras Khomicus who netted 17 points, but the Russians

failed to repeat their comeback victory against Yugoslavia because of inaccurate shooting and the greater speed of the U.S. team.

Diminutive point guard Tyrone Bogues, at 1.60 metres the shortest player in the tournament, accounted for 10 of the 21 steals by the American side.

"The U.S. team showed today they were the best," Soviet coach Vladimir Obukhov said. "My players were nervous and our perimeter shooting wasn't as good as other games."

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1. The Water Authority invites experienced contractors from member countries of the World Bank, Switzerland and Taiwan and contractors in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan who have been prequalified as general & first class water and sewerage contractors by the Ministry of Public Works of Jordan to submit bids for the supply and construction of Baqa'a sewage Treatment Plant Outfall Pipeline. Foreign bidders are strongly recommended to participate in bids as joint ventures with local firms.

2. The project consists of supply & laying of a 600 mm ductile iron pipeline approximate length 7 Km and all ancillary works.

3. A prebid conference will be held on 4/8/1986 beginning at 9:00 hours at the offices of the Water Authority and a site visit will be arranged immediately after the prebid conference.

4. The bids are due not later than (12:00) noon Jordan local time on 26/8/1986 at the office of the Water Authority.

5. Contract documents may be examined and purchased at the following address:
Water Authority
Jabal Hussein
Nablus Street
P.O. Box 2412, Amman - Jordan
Telephone: 666111
Telex: 22439 WAJ Jo

The cost of the initial copy of the contract documents purchased by a bidder is JD 100,000 or U.S. Dollars 250.00 per set. No refunds will be made for the return of full or partial sets of contract documents. Copies of the contract documents will be sent to prospective bidders by the Water Authority upon receipt of the proper amount in a bank check. This amount should cover the cost of the documents plus the cost of sending the same to the bidder's address.

President
Eng. M.S. Kilani
Water Authority
Jordan

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE MODIFICATIONS ON THE TURN-KEY DHULEIL POULTRY SLAUGHTERHOUSE COMPLEX TENDER DOCUMENT

The Ministry of Industry and Trade announces that some modifications had been approved concerning the terms of the above tender.

1- The closing date of rendering the tender had been extended until Saturday September 20, 1986, instead of August 12, 1986.

2- The performance bond is 10% of the total value of the project.

3- Imported machinery, equipment, instrument and material are tax free except consumed material, locally produced material and material produced by Jordan industries classified under endorsed and certified industries and must abide by the rules (12) for the year 1976 and (24) for the year 1979 issued by the Prime Minister's Office.

4- Jordanian contractors could enter into tendering as joint venture with foreign contractors specialised in slaughterhouse machinery and having well experience in this field.

Minister of Industry and Trade

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Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

EXTERMINATOR

Cinema
OPERA
Tel: 675573
THE EXTERMINATOR
Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

EXTERMINATOR

Cine Theatre
Philadelphia
Tel: 634144, 634149
BUS RIDERS
Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

BU'S RIDERS

Cinema
RAGHADAN
Tel: 622198
THE DESTRUCTOR
Performances: 12:15, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15

THE DESTRUCTOR

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One sterling	1.4945/55	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3748/53	Canadian dollars
	2.1290/1300	West German marks
	2.4007/17	Dutch guilders
	1.7190/7200	Swiss francs
	43.90/95	Belgian francs
	6.8770/8820	French francs
	1462/1463	Italian lire
	155.15/25	Japanese yen
	7.0150/0200	Swedish crowns
	7.4275/4325	Norwegian crowns
	7.9800/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	353.00/353.50	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities ended lower but some issues finished above the day's lowest levels. The FTSE 100 index ended 23.9 down at 1,560.5 after touching 1,559.0.

Dealers noted a limited, sustained selling pressure for most of the session but it gave way to some selective bargain hunting towards the close.

The renewed downward movement reflects a number of bearish factors overhanging the market, notably continued anxiety over the downward trend in crude oil prices which prompted Friday's declines in sterling, government bonds and equities.

Dealers added that weekend U.S. press reports highlighting current political difficulties facing the Conservative government contributed to the fall in prices.

Government bonds ended with falls of around 1/4 point, having lost almost a full point in the longer dated issues, as sterling rallied from early weakness against most European currencies.

News late morning of record U.K. retail sales for June, which showed a 3.2 per cent increase on the previous month, had little effect on the market as a whole but prompted some selective buying in the stores sector, dealers added.

Indebtedness of world's major borrowers rises

BASEL, Switzerland (R) — The external indebtedness of the world's major borrowers, with the notable exception of South Africa, continued to grow throughout last year, figures released Sunday show.

According to a joint report by the Bank for International Settlements and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), gross external claims on 159 major borrowers rose to \$821.39 billion at the end of 1985 from \$747.54 billion the previous year.

Brazil remained the most heavily indebted, with debts up to \$83.87 billion at the end of 1985 from \$83.04 billion at the end of 1984. Second-placed Mexico followed with an increase to \$78.25 billion from the previous \$76.33 billion.

However, South Africa was one of the few countries to reduce its indebtedness, with external claims on it down slightly to \$18.08 billion from \$18.18 billion.

The figures, made up of both external claims of banks and various types of trade related claims, though not perfect, in "many instances represent a very substantial portion of total indebtedness," the report said. However, as gross figures, they do not show the borrowing countries' own claims on banks.

Among the other debtor countries, South Korean debts rose to \$40.08 billion from \$36.75 billion, Argentine debts were up to \$31.33 billion from \$27.92 billion and Yugoslav debts rose to \$12.73 billion from \$11.58 billion at the end of 1984.

Israel asks U.S. yards to bid for \$1b navy order

TEL AVIV — Three U.S. shipyards have been invited to tender for the construction of a new class of corvettes for the Israeli navy, according to Western diplomats. Costing an estimated \$1b, the corvettes form the centrepiece of a U.S. government-financed naval re-equipment programme for Israel.

The decision to go ahead with the corvette order ends more than five years of uncertainty and debate about the cost of — and strategic justification for — a class of warships double the size of the largest vessels currently in service in Israel.

Designated the Saar-5, the warships are expected to displace between 1,000 and 1,200 tonnes. They will be armed with helicopters and long-range missiles, and Israeli defence experts say they will also have an advanced electronic warfare capability.

Four, or possibly five, of these warships — the first new weapons system in a decade for the Israeli navy — are to be built in the U.S. and then fitted out and armed in Israel, diplomatic sources say. The defence ministry in Tel Aviv said it could not comment on the reports.

Design work on the ships themselves is due to completion this summer by a U.S. company. A second batch of the Saar-5s may later be constructed entirely at Israel's Haifa shipyard, provided the yard's current acute problems can be resolved. Hopes had been expressed that two of the initial order could be built there, but these apparently proved unrealistic.

The state-owned Israel shipyards have been in the hands of a receiver since February, and faces total shut-down soon for lack of orders unless a purchaser can be found.

However, the yard's salvation may lie in parallel, quiet discussions about its future, involving both the U.S. government and private American companies.

Last October, the U.S. navy signed a master repair agreement

Japan ignores overseas pressure, sets tough targets for next year

TOKYO (R) — Japan Monday ignored domestic and overseas pressure to reflate its economy and set tough government spending targets for next year.

Only a few select areas — defence and overseas aid among them — escaped the axe as the cabinet stuck to its long-range plan to cut down the size of the government.

Finance ministry officials said the cabinet set a general ceiling of 32,950 billion yen (\$212.5 billion) for the fiscal year starting next April, a scant one per cent up on expected spending in the current financial year.

Both the United States and Japanese industrialists have been urging the government to take action to boost the economy, though for different reasons.

Washington is hoping increased domestic demand will help reduce Japan's huge trade surplus by sucking in more imports. Japanese businessmen, on the other hand, are pressing for government help to cope with the strong yen, which has lost them sales and profits abroad, especially in America.

A cabinet statement released Monday promised redoubled efforts to reform the fiscal position. In tacit recognition of

the same argument was used to limit growth in aid.

"It fell from our requested 10 per cent increase but considering the strong yen, it is actually a double digit increase (in dollar terms) over the previous year," Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe told reporters. "It will be no obstacle to achieving our target."

The government has pledged itself to spending \$40 billion on aid over the next seven years.

Dollar hits record low

Meanwhile, heavy currency selling and dumping of stocks by Japanese knocked the dollar to a record low against the yen Monday and caused the biggest one-day drop on the Tokyo stock market, dealers said.

The dollar and the stock market average had recovered only some of their losses by the end of the day.

The dollar closed at 155.50 yen after relentless selling by Japanese international brokers sent it plunging to a record 154.85 yen low in Sydney and Wellington just before the Tokyo market opened.

Continuing forecasts of poor U.S. economic prospects persuaded the Japanese to dump

the dollar. The U.S. central bank has revised its projection for growth in U.S. gross national product down to 2.5 to three per cent compared with its February prediction of three to 3.5 per cent.

The Tokyo stock average was down a record 563.81 points at one point in the afternoon, ending the day 319.09 below the previous close at 17,522.22.

Japanese investors became nervous about holding too many stocks when the market index climbed to a record 17,963.05 in the morning, brokers said.

Their worries were further intensified by the weaker dollar and the gloomy outlook for the U.S. economy. This encouraged even large institutional investors to sell.

"The selling was very, very widespread, beating down nearly all sectors of the market," one market analyst said.

Brokers said the dizzy fall of the index could frighten investors from the market Tuesday, although one of them said that some operators, seeing the market's drop as an opportunity to buy cheap, started nibbling at popular electronics shares late in the day.

British oil companies cry out for help

LONDON (R) — Oil companies operating in the British North Sea are crying out for tax relief to offset the fall in world oil prices, but the Thatcher government shows no sign of answering their pleas.

Companies ranging from small, independent firms to the big majors complain that the dive in oil prices to under \$9 a barrel from over \$30 in November has meant thousands of lay-offs and the shelving of exploration and development plans onshore and in the North Sea.

Last week a cargo of Brent crude, the North Sea's marker grade, sold for \$8.85 a barrel, its lowest level since the high-quality blend came onstream in 1979.

Some smaller firms say the price fall could threaten their survival, with some exploration companies considering withdrawing altogether from the oil business.

"The most acute anxiety facing the industry at the moment concerns cash flow," Mr. Basil Butler, managing director of British Petroleum (B.P.), said at a conference recently. "What is essential is a major review of the tax system related to prices."

Norway earlier proposed to ease taxes on foreign companies exploring and developing offshore oil and gas there. But British officials said this initiative would not be followed by Britain.

The changes sought by oilmen in Britain include lowering the petroleum revenue tax (PRT) rate, cutting or abolishing royalties and immediate repayment of the APRT

(advanced petroleum revenue tax), the overpaid balance of which is due to be returned to the companies in 1988.

There have also been calls for removing disincentives such as PRT "field ring fences," by which development in one area cannot be set off against the tax liability in another.

Central to complaints is the assertion that oil taxes were set at a time when prices were nearer to \$30 than \$10.

But government officials have repeatedly rejected demands for tax breaks to soften the impact of the price fall, arguing that low prices rather than high taxes are hurting producers.

"There is no evidence production is affected by the current fiscal regime," Energy Minister Alistair Buchanan-Smith said asserting there was no proof changes in the tax system would increase offshore activity.

However, he said the government would keep the system under review and that requests for concessions would be considered if it were proved the current system made a project unprofitable.

The tax system is based on the assumption that oil firms are selling crude at the high levels seen since prices shot up in 1979, oil analysts said.

For instance, in the British sector of the North Sea the government can take 85 per cent of a field's gross cash flow after costs, royalty, APRT, PRT and corporation tax.

PRT was introduced in 1975 at a 45 per cent level. It was amended three times — rising to 75 per cent in 1983 with a

supplementary duty, which was replaced by the APRT in 1983.

The same year, royalties were also abolished on new fields. The minimum output below which a field was exempted from PRT was doubled to one million tonnes.

Exploration costs incurred in one field could be offset against the PRT liability in another.

Mr. Colin Phipps, chairman of Brindley (Association of British Independent Exploration Companies), said recently a cut in PRT did not greatly help independent producers.

According to some industry estimates, three majors — B.P., Shell and Esso — pay 66 per cent of PRT.

The energy department has urged oil companies to maintain oil and gas exploration in the North Sea despite the oil price decline. But several projects, including the Shell/Esso £2.5 billion (\$3.7 billion) Gamet oil and gas project, have been shelved or postponed since early this year.

Oil analysts contacted by Reuters noted it would be difficult for the government to justify cuts in PRT, as it would be politically insensitive to cut taxes for the firms when domestic gasoline prices are still relatively high.

Moreover, with oil prices depressed, the incidence of PRT on less economic, smaller fields is relatively limited.

A report by stockbrokers Wood Mackenzie said that a field's tax burden is cut with declining revenues. If revenues fall so that a field is operating at a loss, the company may be able to offset some of the loss against its tax bill. Thus, the firm's actual loss may not be as great as it appears.

Malaysia warns of trade collapse in commodities

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysia warned Monday that commodity prices would collapse soon unless action was taken to shore them up by both producers and consumers.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad told an international commodities seminar here that a collapse in prices would have serious international financial repercussions.

He said current low commodity prices, surpluses and slack demand could not be viewed in isolation.

"The developed countries... will lose as much as the developing countries... the trade in manufactures is going to suffer as less money is available to buy goods," he said.

Mr. Mahathir said the current depression in commodity prices was not a cyclical one because the price drop was largely caused by rapidly developing technology, which led to overproduction and new substitutes.

Protectionist tendencies in developed countries and the practice of passing off excess supplies as aid also disturbed commodity trading, he said.

Mr. Mahathir also criticised developed countries that opposed price fixing and subsidies, but refused to join international commodity agreements.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, JULY 22, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Some delays may arise, but don't let them block your progress as you can rise above or go around them. Get quick action from placing ideas in motion.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Converse with trusted friends and find out if they will assist you in gaining your personal aims.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Get into your books of accounting. Contact an important person who can give you support.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You may have to plan a trip that can bring you greater profit. Count the cost well and get it arranged.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Listen to what your mate has to say that will bring greater success between you.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) A strange situation in public arises that gives you a chance to profit from it and is helpful to your career.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Find new mechanisms and methods by which you can become more efficient in whatever your work may be.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Plan to enjoy more modern type amusements and feel happier. Show more originality in dealing with your mate.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) If you become more interested in what your family is doing and help them, you can have more accord at home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Show partners you are well informed about current conditions that can bring you more success.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Get your property more attractive and modern looking and add clever art. Handle finances carefully.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Making new acquaintances of delightful personality can bring much pleasure for some time to come.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Seek new ways of operating that will bring you greater results in the future. Utilize the best of such.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be attuned to the Modern Era and will go along with whatever is current, be it in business or social life. The career can start early if permitted to express the unusual talents here and is given a fine education. A full and happy life is quite possible.

THE Daily Crossword by Samuel K. Flagler

ACROSS

1. Book
5. Start of an era
10. Vehicle for 2A
14. Summit
15. Speak
16. Community
17. Constituted authority
20. Musical place
21. Misdemeanor
22. Ship's partner
23. Dugout
25. Tullies for one
26. Cleaning tool
28. Like a fatter
32. Encourage
33. Alaskan
34. Number
35. Pray's authorization
36. Cuckoo
38. Shovel
41. Sooty owl
42. — Sybil's
43. — up (action)
44. (become) (adjective)
45. Apprehend
46. Cold-war
47. Clay
48. Sea's count
51. Pin, Indian
52. Unbearable
53. Victory
58. Poetry muse
59. To — others
61. Types
62. Consonant
63. Concorde

DOWN

1. Helms into
2. She loved
3. Described church choir
4. Spill
5. Not at all
6. Peace goddess
7. Possessive
8. — up (action)
9. (become) (adjective)
10. Apprehend
11. Sooty owl
12. — Sybil's
13. — up (action)
14. (become) (adjective)
15. Apprehend
16. Cold-war
17. Clay
18. Sea's count
19. Pin, Indian
20. Unbearable
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37. Pin, Indian
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39. Victory
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42. Types
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53. Clay
54. Sea's count
55. Pin, Indian
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58. Poetry muse
59. To — others
60. Types
61. Consonant
62. Concorde

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

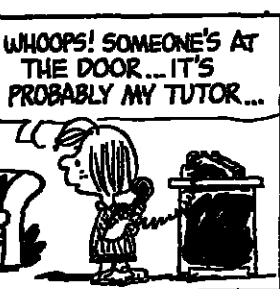
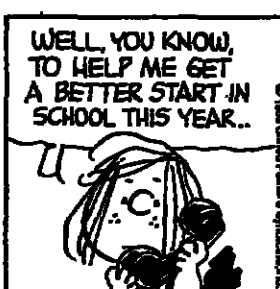
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Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF By Harris



JUMBLE, THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MAUCS

SIPOU

NOMOIK

TEPLYN

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

ANSWER: DRAWL GLOVE BONNET INTAKE

Yesterday's Jumbles: DRAWL GLOVE BONNET INTAKE

Answer: That charming movie star was as flexible as she was this — "LOOKABLE"

Reagan willing to discuss all aspects of arms control

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. President Ronald Reagan has endorsed the draft of a letter to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, expressing willingness to negotiate on all aspects of nuclear arms control, according to published U.S. reports.

If Soviet reaction to the letter is favourable, U.S. officials said it is likely that the two superpowers would agree to hold a summit in Washington before the end of the year, the Washington Post said in Monday's editions.

The New York Times, also in Monday's editions, quoted sources as saying that in the draft letter, Mr. Reagan does not respond directly to Soviet proposals to ban deployment of space-based defensive weapons for 15 to 20 years.

That, along with the restriction of space weapons research to laboratory testing, has been a Soviet condition for agreeing to major cuts in intercontinental missiles and bombers.

The Times said the president has decided against including any explicit overall formula to limit defenses against missile attacks in return for deep cuts in offensive nuclear forces. The Post said the Pentagon and the State Department were still at odds on the subject.

Mr. Reagan signed off Friday on the draft letter, the Post said. It said Secretary of State George Shultz, Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger, National Security

Adviser John Poindexter and White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan all helped author it.

The letter is in reply to a message from Mr. Gorbachev on June 23, and also responds to proposals presented by the Soviets in the last round of the Geneva arms talks.

The draft letter deals with a wide range of issues, including nuclear arms, chemical weapons, the military balance in Europe, and regional issues such as Central America and Afghanistan, the Times said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Reagan has sent senior arms control adviser Paul H. Nitze to Europe to brief allied governments, a U.S. official said Sunday.

Mr. Reagan also assigned Edward L. Rowny, another arms control adviser, to Asia to brief friendly governments there, said the official, who spoke on condition he not be identified.

The president has sent the two advisers on similar missions before.

Mr. Nitze met with West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher in Bonn on Sunday, according to West

German officials who demanded anonymity.

Officials said Friday that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Secretary of State George Shultz were likely to meet at the special session of the U.N. General Assembly in late September to work on a summit agenda.

That timetable raised doubts that Mr. Gorbachev would visit Washington before the end of the year, although one official who spoke on condition of anonymity said a 1986 meeting still was "doable."

Mr. Nitze has indicated that the United States will soon make a new arms control proposal to the Soviet Union, a Bonn Foreign Ministry spokesman said Monday.

Mr. Nitze met with Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher in Bonn Sunday and "informed him of the thoughts of the U.S. government regarding the latest Soviet proposals," said the spokesman, who did not wish to be named.

"He indicated that an American answer (to the Soviets) will be given soon," the spokesman said. But he said Mr. Nitze was not carrying a written draft of a new U.S. proposal. "He didn't show us anything," he said, "in writing," the spokesman told the Associated Press.

In London, the British Foreign Office said Mr. Nitze is expected Monday and Tuesday and that his agenda is private.

Chinese allow visitors to meet journalist

PEKING (AP) — New York Times Executive Editor A.M. Rosenthal said Monday that China's image around the world may "diminish seriously" because of the continued police detention of a Times correspondent on suspicion of intelligence gathering.

Rosenthal spoke to Western reporters after meeting for about 30 minutes with correspondent John Burns. He said he told the security officer with Burns at the meeting, "if a reporter like John Burns working for a newspaper like the New York Times can be harassed at an airport for 15 hours and then detained for four or five days, then I fear that the picture of China around the world will diminish seriously."

"I do not say this with any pleasure," Rosenthal said. He identified the security officer as Gen. Zhang.

Burns, 41, in his first meetings with foreigners since his detention, met separately Monday with British and U.S. embassy officials, his wife Jane Scott-Long and their two small children, and Rosenthal, who was accompanied by Times Foreign Editor Warren Hoge. All said Burns was healthy and in good spirits.

Rosenthal said he told the security officer, "John Burns was a newspaperman first and last and he is no more an intelligence agent than my grandmother, who I assure you was not an intelligence agent."

Rosenthal, who spoke outside the Paochow Detention Centre, said Burns was a "brave man, standing up very well and I want him out of there."

Earlier, Burns met with his wife. As reporters watched through a gate, Burns, wearing a tie, picked up his children and kissed his wife goodbye in the compound of a Peking Public Security Bureau branch office where the meeting took place.

Burns is being treated "like a privileged prisoner," she said. "He's not too uncomfortable." She said Burns expected the resolution of the case to be "short and quick."

The officials who met with Burns said the Chinese investigation was continuing and it was not clear when the reporter might be released.

U.S. embassy spokesman Lynn Noah, who met Burns in the presence of security officials for about 30 minutes, said Burns is "well and in good spirits and he's confident that he will soon be released."

Nakasone forms new cabinet today

TOKYO (AP) — When Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone forms a new cabinet and reshuffles the top posts of his Liberal Democratic Party on Tuesday, attention will be focused on the positions of the three leading contenders to succeed Mr. Nakasone.

By Monday, Mr. Nakasone had held a whirlwind of meetings with top LDP officials in preparation for designating the new cabinet and party posts, which will be announced after Mr. Nakasone is sworn in as prime minister at a special Diet (parliament) session Tuesday.

Kyodo News Service, the Japan Broadcasting Co. (NHK), and most newspapers reported Monday that Finance Minister Noboru Takehara and Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, the only ministers to have maintained their portfolios in all of the Nakasone cabinets since 1982, would be named to top LDP posts.

Mr. Takehara, Mr. Abe and LDP Executive Council Chairman Kiichi Miyazawa are known as the "new leaders" and one of them is expected to succeed Mr. Nakasone as LDP president, who

becomes prime minister as long as the party remains in power.

Tuesday's Diet session follows a landslide LDP victory in July 6 elections when the ruling party swept 304 of 512 seats in the decisive House of Representatives and 142 seats in the 252-seat House of Councillors.

The LDP, which has controlled the government since 1955, is comprised of five factions. Mr. Nakasone's fifth cabinet is expected to reflect the balance of power among the five factions rather than signal major policy changes.

Meissner leaves E. German mission after Bonn drops legal proceedings

BONN (R) — East German economist Herbert Meissner, at the centre of an East-West German row over his alleged defection to the West, left his country's mission to Bonn Monday after an arrest warrant against him was dropped.

Eyewitnesses said Meissner left the building with East German spy-master Wolfgang Vogel in a Mercedes Limousine. Their destination was not immediately clear.

Meissner has been hiding in the mission for nearly a week after being arrested on a charge of espionage and then changing his mind and sought refuge in his country's Bonn legation.

East Germany has charged that he was kidnapped and drugged by West German secret agents and forced to sign statements saying he was defecting voluntarily. East Berlin says he eluded his captors and made his way to Bonn.

Meissner is one of the country's leading economists and a deputy head of the prestigious East

German Academy of Sciences. The Bonn government appeared close to resolving the affair last week until Reimann stepped in with an arrest warrant based on written testimony from Meissner in which he admitted working for East German intelligence while on visits to the West.

Reimann's office said the prosecutor had invoked a special law allowing legal proceedings to be cancelled if national interests are at stake.

The law has been used only once before in an espionage case, when suspected Polish secret agent Jerzy Kaczmarek was released before his trial in February to take part in an East-West exchange involving the release of Soviet dissident Anatoly Shcharansky.

The West German authorities refused to comment on what steps were planned next in the Meissner case.

London gets wedding fever

LONDON (R) — Wedding cakes, confetti by the ton, VIPs and crack troops converged on London on Monday amid the feverish final preparations for Wednesday's royal marriage of Prince Andrew and his debutante bride, Sarah Ferguson.

Barely a store in the capital — from Harrods to the humblest grocer's — could forbear from displaying portraits of the young couple adorned with flowers and good wishes.

Royal stableboys were grooming the horses and palace servants polishing gold coaches for a procession expected to be watched on television by more than 300 million people in at least 36 countries.

Two identical wedding cakes — the extra one "in case of disaster" — completed a six-hour, 400-km journey by road to Buckingham Palace just after dawn.

Nancy Reagan, America's first lady, was in the vanguard of 1,800 dignitaries descending on London for the service in nine-centuries-old Westminster Abbey.

According to Rev. David Cox, an American Episcopalian minister, the couple has requested that only those psalms which do not mention Israel should be read on the day.

No explanation has been forthcoming from Buckingham Palace.

The happy couple were squeezed off front pages by reports that the queen is "dissatisfied" with the policies of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, especially the threat to the Commonwealth posed by Mrs. Thatcher's opposition to South African sanctions.

"Royal crisis," proclaimed the Daily Mail newspaper.

As palace officials busily issued denials of any constitutional rift, Andrew and Sarah were going through their second rehearsal of the service at the abbey.

Their procession in open carriages through central London will be about the most heavily protected coach ride in history.

U.S. may vote against loans for Chile

WASHINGTON (AP) — Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams said Sunday the United States may consider voting in October to end millions of dollars in World Bank loans to the military dictatorship in Chile.

He said the decision depends on "what happens in Chile between now and October."

Mr. Abrams, in an interview on the U.S. television network ABC said the United States has never contemplated imposing sanctions against the Chilean government.

He said he didn't consider voting against continuation of loans as a sanction.

"The law says we should use our voice and vote to promote human rights and democracy in Chile as elsewhere," Mr. Abrams said. "And we'll do that, and we'll use them as a form of pressure and leverage. What exactly will happen in Chile, I don't know."

The World Bank is owned by 148 countries all over the world, but the United States holds the largest single share. It controls 20 per cent of the voting stock of the bank.

Mr. Abrams also left open the possibility that the United States would push for elections in Chile before the scheduled plebiscite in 1989.

"There are a lot of people who would like to see a return to democracy ... instead of the plebiscite in 1989, a real, free election," he said.

Explorers find stern of Titanic intact

WOODS HOLE, Massachusetts (AP) — Explorers found the stern of the Titanic about 200 feet (61 metres) from the main portion of the sunken luxury liner, the expedition's leader has reported.

"At least one third of the ship, the stern section, is intact," Robert Ballard said by radio from his research vessel, Atlantis II, to the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

"We were very surprised to find so large a section intact and sitting up in the water," he said. "Everything else was so damaged."

Ballard estimated the stern section was about 250 feet (76 metres) long and said it was discovered in photographs taken Saturday by a remotely controlled camera that was towed from the Atlantis II.

"We're going to go down tomorrow and find the stern section and try to see the name Southampton on the stern," said Ballard.

He said the stern section was in the debris field, a 660-foot (201 metre) stretch of ocean floor where many of the Titanic's objects fell as it sank to the bottom, 4 kilometres below the surface of the Atlantic Ocean and some 724 kilometres south east of Newfoundland.

Ballard also reported finding an engine room telegraph and more ship boilers.

The 882-foot (1,419-metre) Titanic was on its maiden voyage from Southampton in Great

Britain when it struck an iceberg the night of April 14, 1912, and sank, killing 1,513 passengers and crew. Most of the 704 survivors were women and children.

Ballard and other expedition members were to dive in the expedition's tiny submarine, Alvin, said Shelley Luzzon, a spokeswoman at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, which co-sponsored the expedition.

The photographs of the stern were apparently developed Saturday night or Sunday morning, said Ms. Luzzon.

Researchers who had worked non-stop since July 13 processed and viewed a week's worth of film of the wreck and worked on the submarine instead of diving Saturday, Ms. Luzzon said.

Also on Sunday, the researchers resumed their exploration of the wreck, conducting the seventh in a planned series of 12 dives. The trip was the first of the expedition to include a navy pilot, said Ms. Luzzon.

The navy is paying \$220,000 to test Jason Jr., a lawnmower-sized, camera-equipped robot tethered to the research submarine Alvin. The submarine is launched from the Atlantis II, which must return to shore on July 28.

Ballard, who led the group that discovered the remains last September, on Friday released 12 colour slides and a three-minute colour videotape of the rust-encrusted hull showing a remarkably well-preserved crystal chandelier.

Also pictured were the bow's hull based in the seabed, a view down the grand staircase, and the tear in the ship where the bow and stern broke apart.

The Titanic, the largest and most luxurious liner of its day, carried a stock of provisions befitting its grand size and the predilections of its pampered passengers, according to the ship's manifest.

The luncheon menu for the steamer's first-class passengers on the fateful day it sank included filled of beef (a type of flatfish), grilled mutton chops, veal and ham pie, Norwegian anchovies, corned ox tongue, salmon mayonnaise, assorted vegetables and pastry.

The meal was topped by St. Ivel, Stilton or Camembert cheese and washed down with Munich lager beer, according to the menu reprinted in Oceanus, the quarterly journal of the Oceanographic Institution.

To make sure its 1,480 passengers and crew of 860 didn't go hungry, the Titanic's larder held 35,000 eggs, five tonnes (4.5 metric tonnes) of sugar, bottles of wine, 3,500 onions, 75,000 pounds (33,975 kilograms) of fresh meat, 1,500 gallons (5,700 litres) of milk, 7,000 heads of lettuce and 6,000 pounds (2,718 kilograms) of butter.

And to top off a meal, 8,000 cigars were in storage for those who retired to the ship's smoking rooms or lounges.

7th round of Sino-Indian border talks open

PEKING (AP) — The seventh round of Sino-Indian border talks opened in Peking Monday, several days after an acrimonious exchange of alleged Chinese border violations that has clouded hopes for substantial progress.

At issue is 90,000 square kilometres in the Tibetan region of Arunachal Pradesh, called the eastern sector, and 36,000 square kilometres in strategic Aksai Chin of Ladakh in the western sector.

China seized parts of the territory in the western sector and occupied, for a short time, the eastern sector during a 1962 border war which has soured relations between the two countries.

Monday's talks are the first since last November, when the two sides "reached a clearer understanding" on the less controversial eastern sector but failed to make any headway toward a settlement.

They agreed to take up the western sector at the next meeting in Peking, and took steps to improve relations through increased exchanges in cultural, economic and scientific fields.

On Saturday, Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian told Foreign Secretary A.P. Venkateswaran, head of the Indian delegation, that the atmosphere for the talks was "not what we had hoped for" following the Indian protest over alleged Chinese border violations.

"You have made some public statements, some Indian newspapers have run some articles and our mass media has had to respond. All this is not conducive to successful talks," Mr. Wu was quoted by the official Xinhua News Agency as saying.

The Indian Foreign Ministry said on June 26 that 40 Chinese, including 20 in uniform, penetrated 6 to 7 kilometres into Arunachal Pradesh last month.

China last week denied the charge, saying the area in question has "always been Chinese territory," and accused the Indian side of frequent border violations.

An Indian diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the alleged intrusion will be among a number of matters to be discussed during the three-day meeting.

Mr. Venkateswaran, speaking at a banquet Sunday evening hosted by Foreign Affairs Vice Minister Lin Shuang, head of the Chinese delegation, said he was sure that India and China, which are closely linked by history and culture, will resolve the boundary question.

He acknowledged that the border dispute is complicated, but said it can be settled as long as the two sides have the sincerity to do so, Xinhua reported.

China has reportedly offered to give up its claim to the desolate, mountainous eastern sector in exchange for Indian recognition of China's sovereignty in the west.

India, however, insists that both sectors belong to India.

The sixth round marked the first time the two sides held substantive talks on the border dispute since the negotiations began in 1981.

Filipino police rescue kidnapped child

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (R) — A three-year-old Filipino-American girl kidnapped on Friday by suspected Muslim rebels in the southern Philippines was rescued unharmed by police within a few hours, a spokesman said Monday.

He said kidnappers abandoned Linacel Cawley after a chase and gunfight in a village on Basilan Island across the strait from Zamboanga at the southern tip of Mindanao Island.

Police said the girl was now safe with her parents, who own a rubber and coconut plantation on Basilan.

The spokesman said the child was snatched from her nanny in front of their house by two men on a motorcycle. Police chased the kidnappers, who escaped during a brief gunfight.

He said the child's grandmother, Teresa Cawley, had been kidnapped in 1978 and freed after about a month in captivity,

when the family paid a ransom.

Soldiers ringed another village on Basilan to try to rescue a Swiss tourist kidnapped with his Filipino companion by suspected Muslim secessionists at the weekend, a military spokesman said.

He said the regional military chief, Maj. Gen. Jose Magno, had sent emissaries to negotiate with the captors of Hans Kundt and Adelaida Gamboa, but had told commanders to use force if necessary.

Party quits Malaysian coalition before elections

KOTA KINABALU (R) — The Berjaya Party, which has its base in the East Malaysian state of Sabah, Monday quit the ruling National Front coalition over seat allocations in next month's general elections.

Party leader Datuk Mohamed Noor Mansor told Reuters Berjaya was allocated only one seat to contest in the federal parliament, against the nine it currently holds from the 1982 election.

He added Berjaya would contest the Aug. 2 and 3 election under its own banner as an opposition party.

Berjaya ruled Sabah for nine years until 1985 when it was swept out of power by the newly-formed Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS).

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad told reporters that it was the party's right to do as it wished. His multiracial coalition now has 13 component parties.

Meanwhile Malaysia's high court ordered the election commission Monday to appear at its hearing into an opposition party application to halt next month's general election, the commission lawyer said.

The main opposition Democratic Action Party (DAP) applied for an injunction stopping the election on the grounds that the commission had not given sufficient notice for the nomination of candidates for the poll on Aug. 2 and 3.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR GRAHAM
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DEAR MR. GOREN

Q.—From time to time I come across the term "high reverse" in your column. I think I know what you mean by a "reverse bid." What's the difference between the two terms?—H.P., Louisville, Ky.

A.—A reverse bid is simply a bid that prevents responder from giving opener preference to his first bid suit at the two-level. You are probably most familiar with the normal reverse, where the auction goes something like:

NORTH SOUTH
1♠ 1♥

Since South has to rebid at the three-level to give preference to North's first bid suit, North's bidding must show substantially more values than a minimum opening bid. In modern practice, this reverse is forcing to the three-level in opener's first suit. Note that North has bid his suits in opposite order to the normal practice—he has bid his lower-ranking suit first to force preference at the three-level.

There is another sequence that also forces preference at the three-level:

NORTH SOUTH
1♠ 2♠

Here North has bid his higher-ranking suit first, but by showing

his second suit at the three-level North has still prevented South from giving preference to spades at the two-level. Even though the suits were bid in the normal order, the fact that North introduced his second suit at a higher level has created a "high reverse." This bid, too, shows extra values. The range for either reverse is about 18-19 points.

If opener is at the bottom of the scale, his suit-quality should be excellent.

Q.—What is the minimum requirement for an opening bid—13 or 14 points? There is some disagreement about this in our game.—N.C., Cherry Hill, N.J.

A.—If your hand values to 14 points after you have depreciated it for any flaws it might contain, it is a mandatory opening bid. If you have 13 points, take your defensive tricks into account. With two or more defensive tricks, open it. With fewer than two, we recommend that you pass.

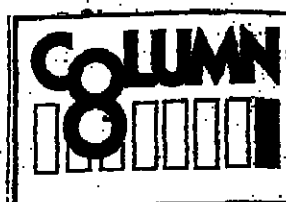
However, no harm will come to you if you like to open 1 point lighter than our guidelines. The main thing is that partner should know about your tendencies—as well as your opponents, for that matter.

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300 patients blinded in eye operation

NEW DELHI (AP) — About 300 patients have been blinded in eye operations performed by a doctor in western Uttar Pradesh state, and the government there has ordered an investigation, the United News of India (UNI) reported. UNI said Friday that Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Veer Bahadur Singh ordered the probe into the operations performed last April at two "eye relief camps" in the towns of Moradabad and Khurja, where free or low-cost eye operations are provided for the poor. Most of the patients have gone blind in one or both eyes, UNI said. The doctor, whose name was not provided, has been forbidden to operate. Details were not immediately available and it was not known if the blinding was permanent or temporary.

Man breaks world record in standing

JAKARTA (R) — A university student on Java stood as long as he could stand it — 15 hours and 25 seconds to be exact — and unofficially broke the Guinness Book of Records mark for standing rigidly still. Sumardi, 20, outlasted 102 other upright participants in the city of Semarang and claimed the Guinness record, formerly 13 hours set by Willie Nugent of England last year. Jaya Suprana, chairman of the contest's standing committee, told Reuters. A British Council representative from Jakarta was on hand to certify the event for the Guinness record keepers, he said. Contestants had to stand rigidly still without eating, drinking or relieving themselves, "but were allowed to blink and breathe," Suprana said.

Boys steal magistrate's wallet

PERTH (R) — Two teenage boys stole the wallet of a magistrate who had just heard their charges against them, police said Monday. The boys, 15 and 16, took the wallet containing 40 dollars (\$25) from Magistrate Peter Michelides' Chambers last Friday during a break in court proceedings. Police declined to give the names of the boys. Police said two escaped through the ceiling of the court house but had been caught. They now face an additional charge of escaping from legal custody. Police said the magistrate's wallet was recovered but the money was missing.

Beauty pageant candidates to appear as jungle creatures

PANAMA CITY, Panama (AP) — Candidates for the 1986 Miss Universe title spent the last hours before the winner's selection practicing a musical presentation in which they appear dressed as jungle creatures. Many of the 77 young women from around the world appeared tired and nervous Sunday from the strain of three weeks of rehearsals, costume sessions and other preliminary activities. Organizers of the event banned all social activities for the contestants, who range from 17 to 25 years of age, and prohibited interviews and photo sessions, blaming the pressure of time and rehearsals for the event at the Anayansi Convention Centre here.

7,000-year-old skeletons found in Danish garden

KOEBE, Denmark (R) — A Danish woman has found four 7,000-year-old skeletons in her garden while digging to make a fishpond, a museum official said Monday. Dental examination showed the bones were of a 40-year-old man and a woman of around 25 with an eight-year-old child between them. At the man's feet lay another male aged about 20. "It is a very good find, very well preserved. It may be a family which has suddenly died in some way," said the official. Only a score of skeletons that old have been found in Denmark. The woman was wearing a belt of deer's teeth, while the older man had a flint dagger at his hip. Other finds included bone tools and traces of red ochre, possibly from dyed skins in which the bodies were wrapped.